SUNDAY
January 29, 2023

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RESCUE TIPS

How to save a sinking island

New study suggests ways to protect Kerala's famed Munroe Thuruthu from land subsidence and tidal flooding

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Why is Air India irked with DGCA penalty?

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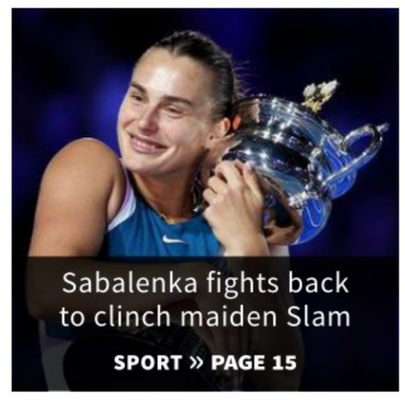

Sabalenka fights back to clinch maiden Slam

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NEARBY

BJP resolved Mahadayi issue, says Shah

BELAGAVI
The BJP-led government at the Centre has resolved the Mahadayi river water issue and cleared the plan by Karnataka, which will benefit farmers in several districts, Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, said on Saturday. » Page 4

121 fatal accidents in nine months

BENGALURU
Within nine months of the financial year 2022–23, the total number of electrical accidents that occurred under the jurisdiction of Bescom has exceeded the annual numbers of the previous three FYs.
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CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES J2 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Sea winds erode Sundarbans temple

To prevent corrosion of the 11th century terracotta temple, the ASI plans to replace damaged bricks and plant trees as a protective barrier

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

An ancient terracotta temple in West Bengal's Sundarbans, which has survived the ravages of time for a millennia, is now facing a very modern threat.

The impact of climate change, especially the increase in air salinity, is gradually eroding the outer wall of Jatar Deul, an 11th century Shiva temple, which is located at Raidighi in South 24 Parganas, only a few kilometres from the sea.

"For the past several years, we have noticed that the outer brick wall of the temple is getting eroded, with the edge of bricks suffering steady corrosion. We have deduced that this is due to increase in air salinity," Shubha Majumder, Superintending Archaeologist, Kolkata Circle, ASI, told *The Hindu*. The ASI plans to carry out restoration and conservation work at the temple later this year. "We are going to remove the damaged bricks and replace them with new bricks of similar size," he said.

While the temple is 98 feet high, the archaeologist said the erosion is particularly seen in the bricks on the outer wall up to a height of 15 feet. "The temple stands on a vacant site. There are some trees to provide a barrier to coastal winds, particularly on the upper part of the temple, and that can be the reason that erosion is less on the upper side of the temple," Dr. Majumder said.

Jatar Deul, an 11th century Shiva temple in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amphan, the tropical cyclone that ravaged coastal West Bengal, particularly the Sundarbans, in May 2020, had destroyed three trees at Jatar Deul, further exposing the temple to the gusty salt-laden coastal winds.

CONTINUED ON
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Security upscaled, Rahul resumes Bharat Jodo Yatra

Peerzada Ashiq
AWANTIPORA/NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who resumed the Bharat Jodo Yatra amid stringent security measures in Kashmir on Saturday, was joined by former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and her family. He also paid tributes to 40 deceased CRPF jawans at the 2019 blast site in Pulwama's Lethpora area.

The Congress, which had alleged that "security arrangements collapsed" on Mr. Gandhi's arrival in Kashmir's Qazigund on Friday, expressed satisfaction on the upscaling of security measures. "We are satisfied with the fresh security arrangements. However, we are receiving calls from local people that they were being stopped from joining the yatra because of security reasons. It's also the duty of the police to facilitate those people who intend to join the yatra," senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir said.

Joint effort: Mehbooba Mufti and daughter Iltija Mufti with Rahul Gandhi during his march in south Kashmir. NISSAR AHMAD

Earlier, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had also written to Home Minister Amit Shah and sought "adequate security to the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

SENSODYNE

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Pilot killed as two fighter jets crash

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

An Indian Air Force pilot was killed after two fighter jets were involved in an accident in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Wing Commander Hanumanth Rao Sarathi. Two pilots were rescued.

The jets, a Sukhoi-30MKI and a Mirage-2000, had taken off from Gwalior on a routine training mission. "One of the three pilots sustained fatal injuries," the IAF said.

While the Mirage crashed near Morena, the Sukhoi crashed near Bharatpur in Rajasthan, about 100 km away. An inquiry has been ordered to determine the cause of the accident. It will also determine whether there was a mid-air collision involving the two jets, sources said.

"Deeply anguished by the loss of brave air warrior, Wg Cdr Hanumanth Rao Sarathi. My deepest condolences to his bereaved family. We stand by his family in this difficult hour," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7

Mughal Gardens is now Amrit Udyan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens, popularly known as the Mughal Gardens, was renamed Amrit Udyan on Saturday.

"On the occasion of the celebrations of 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the President of India is pleased to give a common name to the Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens as Amrit Udyan," Navika Gupta, deputy press secretary to President Droupadi Murmu, said in a statement here.

The garden is thrown open to the public for a limited period during spring each year. On Sunday, in presence of the President, the garden will be opened for public and it will remain open till March 26.

New identity: The iconic garden spread over 15 acres will be open to public from January 31 to March 26. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Designed by Edwin Lutyens – the iconic garden is spread across 15 acres and it incorporates both Mughal and English landscaping styles. The main garden has two channels intersecting at right angles dividing the garden into grid of squares – a Charbagh (a four-cornered garden) – a typical characteristic of the Mughal landscaping. There are six lotus-shaped fountains at the crossings of these channels rising to a height of 12 feet. The garden houses nearly 2,500 varieties of dahlias and 120 varieties of roses.

Architect K.T. Ravindran said the decision to rename the garden is "certainly inappropriate". "The garden is designed in Persian or Mughal style. In fact, Edward Lutyens who designed the Viceroy's House, what we call Rashtrapati Bhavan, had deliberately used Mughal architectural details as part of the British appeasement plan," he said.

Women owning property in State way higher than national average

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A recent World Bank study that looks at property ownership among women found that 67.6% of females aged between 15 and 49 in Karnataka own a house and/or land, alone or jointly with other family members, as of 2019-20.

This is higher than in several other States in the country. For instance, the ownership figures stand at 22.9% in Maharashtra, 43.5% in Odisha, 43.6% in Gujarat, and 22.7% in Delhi (NCT) as of 2019-20. The national average is 43.3%. Interestingly, in Karnataka, the women's property ownership proportion also rose by over 15% when compared to 2015-16.

Making observations on its implications on women's autonomy and independence, the study said that it enhanced their ability to travel to places outside the community and allows them to make decisions on key issues such as employment, health, and finances.

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 3

The art of gender-bending

Manipur's traditional theatre form of Shumang Leela has continued to inform and entertain down the ages

Ritu Raj Konwar
rituraj.k@thehindu.co.in

Shumang Leela is a traditional form of theatre in Manipur where the roles of women are all played by men, called *Nupi Shabis*. In the case of women's theatre groups, the roles of men are played by women.

Shumang Leela translates to "courtyard performance". It is performed in an open courtyard surrounded by spectators on all four sides.

The tradition is believed to be descended from *Lai Haraoba*, a ritual of the Meitei community of Manipur. The plays serve as a medium to spread awareness among people of social, political and economic issues. Shumang Leelas may also discuss moral values, unity and integrity. This theatre form has for long been trying to strengthen the bond of brotherhood and friendship among various communities in the State.

Today, Shumang Leela is of two types: Nupa Shumang Leela, performed only by men, and Nupi Shumang Leela, performed only by women. In a society marked by heteronormativity, the gender-bending nature of Shumang Leela makes it a unique art form that is fraught with complexity. The men who take up female roles or vice versa are both lauded and laughed at. However, the traditional theatre form has preserved its niche, and its aim to inform and entertain has remained unchanged.

Crowning glory: An actor prepares to play the role of a woman in a Shumang Leela, a traditional theatre form, in Imphal.

Up to date: Contemporary themes have been incorporated into Shumang Leela. Often, the female roles are taken up by transgender actors.

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GOVT / QUASI GOVT

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HINDI

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DOCTOR

VANNIYAKULA CHATHRIYAR 28/177, MDS Asst. Proff, Seeks Dental/ BPT Bride. Ct: 9789859565, 9710330967 (W)

M.S. ORTHO, PDF (Spine) Asst. Prof. 32/176 Working in Govt Medical College seeks bride preferably Doctors from SC Adi - Dravidar. Ct: 9443094995

HINDU SC Govt Doctor,47 unmarried 180 cm seeks doctor bride,CNB Ph:9840374285,Wapp no:7200750219

Handsome Doctor working U.S.A New York Brooklyn Hospital. Vellalar, T.N Affluent Seeks beautiful U.S.M.L.E passed or U.S settled, below 30 years, sub-sects & Caste no bar. Contact: 9487830391, 9750144781

ENGINEER

28 /5FT 8inch BTech, ME (BITS Pilani) Sr. Mechanical Eng. in Stellantis (MNC) Pune, Caste No Bar, Mob: 9413171014

EliteMatrimony.com
Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite from Matrimony.com Group

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 30, 180 cms, Psychologist, Masters. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 29, 165 cms, Management Professional, ME. Lives in Abu Dhabi. Father is a working professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a suitable match from Brahmin community ready to relocate to Abu Dhabi. Contact: 6366448344

GOUNDER, 34, 175 cms, Sr Manager, MBA. Lives in Delhi. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from equal community. Contact: 6366448344

YADAV, 27, 178 cms, Medical Professional, MBBS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Central Govt Employee. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match from same community. Contact: 6366448344

NAIR, 26, 178 cms, Education Professional, MSc. Lives in Chennai. Parents are retired. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 25, 160 cms, Entrepreneur, ME. Lives in Kalavai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448343

DEVAR, 26, 160 cms, Pursuing MD/ MS. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 26, 165 cms, Medical Professional, MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match from any same community. Contact: 6366448344

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, PG. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

CHRISTIAN CSI, 24, 160 cms, Medical Professional, Pursuing MD. Lives in Chennai. Parents are working professionals. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

TAMIL

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Alliance Invited for Singapore Tamil Muslim Girl 5'7" from Foreign Based Groom.
Contact
9444905982

RC NADAR Girl M.E, 33/5.7, Fair, Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Call /whatsApp: 9886888775

Delhi Based 26/153 MSW BPO Girl seeks suitable Groom Ct:9953091596, Subramaniyamnaidu11@gmail.com

HINDU SC, Adi Dravida, B.E., 154cm/ 27,MNC 16L pa seeks suitable Alliance from same community 9444155781

PURE VEG Groom w/o Expectation for Girl 27, 5.5 ft. Fair, MSc, BEd, Pvt Schl Job Iyer Punarvasu CNB 8754663375.

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR, 25/164 Fair B.E seeks Groom from Same Caste. Contact with details to: 9840028346

Wanted Groom Kamma Naidu, Age 30, Central Govt job in Mumbai, Good looking Girl Mob no: 9599636540.

TELUGU

BALIJA , BE ,MBA (IIM),26/160/22 LPA very fair girl working in top MNC company looking for suitable match from working Professional. Groom from well educated family, teetotaller with clean habits. contact : 9444611307

Balija Naidu,1988 Born, Fair, Running her own school at Bengaluru, Family well to do, Wanted Rich Groom Contact: 9444385243

30 YEARS 5.5" Sadhayam Fair Good Looking,B.E Naidu Chennai Girl annulled Marriage Seeks Groom below 36 India / Abroad, CNB Ct: 9500009694

RICH KAMMA Naidu 23/BE, Father Highways & PWD Contractor Affluent Family Seeks Rich Groom. Ct: 7200067015

COSMOPOLITAN

BE/35/Hindu Boy SAP Lead MNC Chennai Hearing Impaired(Eng) Smart Independent seeks bride. 8870710427

TAMIL PILLAI 34/170 cm, BE, MS, (Ph.D), Data Analyst in JAPAN, Earning 40 LPA from Elite Family seeks suitable Bride from Educated Family (caste no bar). Contact Mob: 9414034936

DIVORCEE

H'SME NADAR BOY 5'4"/35 B.Tech; Working as Soft Engg in an MNC; Seeking NADAR Fair, Educated reputed family girl. Contact:emphaticway@gmail.com

GROOM 34,BE, good family & Settled, Employed in USA.Seeking Hindu Bride.Caste & age no bar.Divorcee Bride also with/without child. email: veDha.880827@gmail.com. 9042021137

TELUGU

NAIDU 22/167,FAIR& Beautifull,B.Tech,SWE,HCL,Chennai, 40000. PM,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

NAIDU GOVT.OFFICER Working in TN. PSU./ Born 1975,CNB, Seeks Groom. Contact: 9360167989

GROOM WANTED
Telugu Kapu from West Godavari, Settled in Chennai. 25/162, Fair and Slim Girl, Architect with Business background and Land Lord in Chennai. Looking for Eligible Rich Kapu Groom.
Contact & Whatapp: 9717980171

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM parents seek Allopathic Doctor or Engineer (Oil/Gas/ Petrochem/ MNC) for daughter 30 Yrs Slim, Fair MBBS. M.S., Mob:8056198771.

SMU, Chennai based reputed Business Family seeks Groom for their daughter, 31 /165cm BE., M.S working in Amazon-Polo Alto San francisco, coming to Chennai in February - 2023. Ct: 98841 41181 / 97898 89668.

ENGLISH

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our son, aged 29 years, working in MNC in Bangalore, residence in Chennai, Hindu, Brahmin Vadakalai Iyengar. Contact 9952018111

Bangalore Research Scientist M Tech Biotechnology 27/180 cm Saiva Pillai seeks suitable Educated Employed Bride. Contact 8220445782

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

SRIVAISHNAVITE 1984 160cm BE 20 Lpa, 2Flats Chennai, clean habits seeks Hindu FC Veg. Minor disablty, NonTamil no bar. 9952034943

MALAYALAM

THIYA MDS 32/167, Uthram Third Generation Dentist in 1950 Estabilished clinic looking for MDS/MBBS girl. CT: 98433-98432, 72004-72221.

VELLALA PILLAI 29, software engineer, 172 cm, Bharani, preferred B.Tech & working, TVM, 9446980265.

Ezhava 33 Aswathy Very Fair Chennai settled, Employed, Financially sound seeks Bride. Contact 9094405733

NRI

FAMILY SEEKS smart good looking girl for South Indian Christian boy age 30 years PM UAE whatsapp +971554722958

LOOKING FOR a Sunni bride within 32 yrs for US born 36 yr male with bachelors degree and working. Please contact with details, ph no. and pics to mbanue101@gmail.com

TAMIL MUDALIAR (CNB) 31 / 180cm Tech Analyst at Facebook UK earning 100K GBP seeks Bride living in UK. +91 9840856664

NAIDU TELUGU 28/180CM, Puratathi, BTech MS working as Research Engr in Sweden, Contact 9566682220

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN BOY Nadar 35/184cm Annulment BE MBA Project Manager in Chennai IT salary 2.5 Lac Per Month Well Settled Family seeks Bride Any Degree or Working. WhatsApp 9840377793

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM Doctor age 28, 5.7 fair, reputed family well settled seeks good looking doctor bride wanted. Contact : 98411 38181

TAMIL MUSLIM, 32 yrs, 168 cm, Handsome, Software Engineer in USA. Seeking educated Bride. Ct: 74163–65065

RC (DKV) 34/ 176 BE, IT 1.3L/pm well settled seeks suitable bride. Caste, Religion No bar. Ct: 9884467912

RC 1973 /165cm MA MBA Govt. Asst. Manager 95K/pm Chennai divorce seeks Bride CNB Contact No:– 8148842983

CHRISTIAN, 40/170, never married, B.E. software engineer, settled in chennai, seeks well educated girl from elite family, CT–9500188067

CSI CHRISTIAN Handsome 30, 175cm BE/MNC Chennai/ 9 Lac PA Seeks Chennai, Bangalore Based Girl. 6379397599

USA BASED Software Architect , Age 48, looking for good looking & fair girl, age from 40 to 45 tamil speaking family oriented girl interested to settle in US after marriage. Preferred for widow women. kindly share your bio data with photo to whatsapp number 9080400330.

MUTHURAJA 28/180 B.E, MS (USA) Engineer, USA. Seeks bride in USA or willing to travel USA. Ct: 9444581708

MUDALIYAR 30YRS/MS /Thiruvonam, Meena Rasi working in US in IT Sector Well to Do Family with his Assests Worth in Crores.Seeks Bride 9840456644(only Whats App call), 9840636662

NAIDU, 36, BE, MBA, Bank Officer, Seeks Bride Good Family from South Tamilnadu, Avoid If already contacted. 9443172955

GROOM 41 - 173cm - Employed and Business. Well settled Good family Seeking Bride - caring - educated. Caste no bar- widowed / divorced also welcome. Ph: 88255 55545 email: talentashok500@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR, Nov 1981 born, 5.7', Purattathi, M.Tech Ph.D (IIT), native of Madurai, Clean habits, MNC Bangalore, Divorcee (without issue) seeks suitable family oriented Bride / Divorcee (without issue). Send BHP to: 9843149380

VANNIYAR, 40/173, Dentist, Pvt Clinic, Seeks Educated Unmarried/ Widow/ Divorcee. Caste No Bar 9840072550

WELL–TO–DO GROOM needs educated/ uneducated Bride, First & Suitable Remarriage, Life companion 7200754946

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 33/170 Mirugasirisam, M.Sc IT Working in MNC, No Dhosham, Seeks BE/PG Bride. 9176780777.

US CITIZEN Tamil Mudaliyar 61 yr, Divorced No encumbrances Seeks Bride (40–46 yr) Fit educated teetotaler Caste / Lang No bar Email: kaniska1961@gmail.com / Ph: +91 9363580695

1984 BORN MUDALIAR Boy 180cm Specialist Dentist –MDS working for Saudi Govt. 40L/PA seeks suitable Fair Bride 7401452315/ 9444126854/ muppudathi.s@gmail.com

IYER DIVORCEE Boy Vadoolam Thiruvonam 48/168 Director IT MNC Seeks Iyer/ Iyengar Graduate Girl Divorcee/ Widow without Issues. 9841942915.

HINDU NADAR/ Fair/ Good Looking /11.12.88 / Msc Economic History at LSE (London) , MA Economic and business at Columbia University (USA) Merit Scholarship/ Now working at Chennai/194cm/ Pooradam–2/ Thanusu Rasi/ Kumba lagnam/Two sisters Married/ Own House in Chennai. Seeks an Educated Girl from a Decent Family. Ct: Raghavan 9884411818.

MUDALIAR 29, M.Tech, 178cm, 22 Lacs P.A, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB.Ct: 8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU NADAR 27, 175cm, MBBS/MS (Ortho), Income 100000 PM, Seeks Suitable Bride KA.Raman Nadar 93807 91999

WANTED BRIDE with Graduate or Post graduate qualification in any arts or commerce subject. For a doctor 31 years, 167 cm, fair and handsome, having own family hospital at Nagercoil (KKOH). Nanchil nattu Vellalah, non vegetarian, affluent family. Girl should be good looking Hindu girl with decent family background not necessarily rich. Caste no bar. Call 9443131366

AGE 57 Professor 2.5LPM independent Single Healthy would like to have life partner aged 40 –55 an independent Educated Healthy Single widow/Divorcee. caste No Bars. 9444358129

TAMIL

PILLAI 32/173 Pooram ME ML Advocate Chennai seeks working Pillai/ Mudaliar Bride Geetham 9884858014

VISWAKARMA TAMIL 30/167 SW Eng Revathi/ME(ph.d)/Fair/RS.6 L PA seeks suitable bride 9444247481/ 8428432112

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR, Divorced, 40 Mirugasiridam PhD TN Govt Job Rs 1.15 p/m 7904550883

AFFLUENT/UPPMDLCLASS HINDU/TAMIL Boy (27/5'7/BE/MNC Blore) well edu fmly seeking enterprising girl from similar background. Caste No–Bar, Plz Call 9449057239

TAMIL BRAHMIN Vadama Kaushikam Revathi 44/183, CA, partner–leading audit firm, Coimbatore innocent divorcee, honest looking for suitable bride, Subsect no bar. CT: 89403 11123, email: soundarya19801@gmail.com

HINDU PURE Veg Age–44 1st Marriage, M.A. Govt B'Grde – Slry 86K above, Seeks Any Caste Veg Bride or Willing to Veg, below Age 38 only. Ct Whtsp : 8903747433 & 9626370329

WANTED BRIDE / SC/age21–23/ Asthamstar/BE(comp) /MBA/for well settled bride groom/ SC/27/punarpoosam star/BE(mech) &MBA (fin)/ 168 cm/working at MNC/banglore/ salary Rs 80000/month/mskrish64@gmail.com

68 HINDU Yadav Business Good Health Needs Like Minded Life Partner 50-60 to Care Home & Business at Trichy. 97869 85957

HINDU, 56 Yrs, Healthy, Well Settled, Govt. Executive, Separated, seeks Broad minded, Well settled, Independent Lady above 45, as a Soul mate and Life Companion, Caste No Bar Contact: 73970 87032, mail: mducbe18@gmail.com

DKV 33/173 Hastham Manager Govt. Bank seeks suitable bride from educated family. Caste No bar. 9940507235

NAIDU 34/175 MBA, Working in USA, Seeks Educated Girl from decent Family. CNB. Ct: 9444390833

MUDALIAR (CNB) 28/Handsome, B.E, M.S(USA) Oil Manufacturing Industry, BusService, Running Own Schools&College Chennai Only Son, Elite Family Seeks Bride Any degree– 8925019776

HINDU SC Adidravidar, Age 35, MTech Civil Engineer, Thiruvonam Magaram,Working in Dubai. Ct: 9600382674

AGAMUDAI MUDALIAR 34 years 168cms BE Civil engineer Abudhabi 4lakhs/ month Raghu Ketu dosham seeks suitable bride CNB.cont 9003575687

MUDALIAR BE,CHENNAI 1985,Fair, Well Settled, Any Degree Emp/Unemploy Decent Family. 9952010118, 8610518808

RICH MUDALIAR, (Bus Owner 200 Buses), 28 / BE, Well to do Family Seeks Bride. Ct: 72000 67015

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 23.5 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

INTERCASTE PARENTS (F–chettiar M–saiva Mudaliyar) Seeks Suitable Working Girl (Vegetarian) for their son Age 32(B.E)/Uthiram/178cm s/Fair/SWE,Contact 9710080772

VISWAKARMA TAMIL 29/164 SW Eng/ Makaram/Thiruvonam/B.E.(IT)/Fair seeks suitable bride from the same community ct–9488921838

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our son, aged 29 years, height 171cm, B Tech(NIT–T) & MBA(IIM–L), HINDU – Vanniar, Sathayam, Kumbam, working at Bangalore (currently work from home) native of Tirupathur, Tirupathur district. Working bride with BE/B Tech, MBA may contact. 8438711270 or praveenhere93@gmail.com

BITS PILANI Engineer 6'1 Mudaliar born in Nov 91 Wkg at Bangalore Product Manager Sal 40 lacs seeks Bride 5'4 Engineer,CA Doctor. - 7382620365

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 35yrs BE. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA, UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bride from same caste- 9886572314

VAANIYAR CHETTY– 36 Visagam / 176 / MS (Sweden) Working Sweden 60L/pa.(Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks (BE /MS / MBA / MCA / CA / Ph.D). prof. Bride, CNB. Cont:9840429799

SC/AD:AGE 25,BE,WORKING at Infosys. Parent–Bank Official.Seeking Good looking Girl,any Caste. Ct:6352135161

FC/BC BRIDES for Mudaliar 32years BE, MBA Govt. 80K, 178cm, Own house, Ayilyam, Kadagam. 9444925350

TAMIL

BALIJA NAIDU 28yrs 165cm Software Eng Poorattahi Kumbam seeks good looking educated employed girl. 9884642005

HINDU – BE /SWE/31/Sc –Caste No Bar/Ayillam –Kadagam . Affluent and educated family settled in Bangalore .Seeking Bride below 28yrs from educated and well settled family. Contact No 9845401461.

HINDU SAIVA Vellalar, 26 yrs/178 cm, B.Tech., MNL employed seeks suitable employed Alliance. Ct: 9003923602.

SAIVA PILLAI, 49/178, MCA, First Marriage Business in Madurai, 1 Lakh per month seeks suitable Bride. Sub-Caste no bar. Ct: 94421 23404

HINDU 31 Years 185 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Program Manager after MS in US. Employed in U.S.A for 4 years and two years in Dubai. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham & Backward Community. Seeks well Educated, Hindu Bride (Caste No Bar) for their only Son. Mobile 9840041041

VISHWA Karma Tamil 35 years of age Good looking Boy MBA Dhanus Rasi with clean habits Own Business seeks Graduate homely Girl between 29-34 years of age group. 98430-21512.

59, DECENT, Educated, looks young, well settled, seeking Widow/Divorcee. Contact : 7401489892

WE ARE looking for an alliance for our elder son, aged 29 years, residing in Chennai, height 6 feet, M.B.A (IIM Ahmedabad), Hindu, Brahmin, Iyer, Haritham, Anusham, Medium complexion. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family and working. Same caste. Non Haritham, No doshas, Should be around 26 to 28 years. Contact with Astrological details to rk0437992@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

Iyengar Vadakalai 34/167 Poorattathi Naithruba Kashyabam. MS Bits Pilani, MNC 2L Pm, own House Coimbatore. Seeks Graduate Girl, Kalai & Subsects no bar. Ct: 9789014553, 8056788367.

ALLIANCE INVITED for a High Profile well established (Flat construction) family in Chennai is looking for a good looking qualified Brahmin girl (Age 30) for their son 34 years handsome M.S. (USA) Hindu Brahmin (Tanjore Dist.,) Email: srkveecons@gmail.com

BRAHMIN 58 Ys Unmarried Electrical Healthy 40K Seeks Any Pure Veg Family Blw 52 Ys Widow Ok. 9840846524

BRAHMIN, 42, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl, Ph: 9487851429

BRIDE WANTED
Age 41, Vellalar Pillai, BE, ECE, 171/ 68 kg. working as a Software Architect in International Bank, Singapore, Tanjore origin, well settled, wedding function void (annuled). Expected bride with a degree, good family background (caste & status no bar). Contact:
+918220007069

VISWAKARMA, 39yrs /5.10', MBA, Manager, 12 Lacs p.a, Doctor Parents, Divorcee (with son 8 yrs) seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9994535673

CENTRAL GOVT Officer, Well Settled Chennai 56yrs Widower with 13yrs old daughter seeks suitable Life partner Caste, Community No Bar, Spinster, Divorcee, Widow without Encumbrance preferred Contact: 91235 30616

TELUGU

NAIDU 30, 174 cm, MS(Engg) working in USA , H1B Visa seeks bride studying/working in USA from Naidu CT.9442026567 or kvr1956@gmail.com

ELITE KAMMA Naidu 28/BE, MS, (3 Spinning Mills) Wind Mills (2 Textile Mills) Rich Family Grooms Seeks Bride. Ct: 72002 59760

NAIDU 29/184, Handsome,B.Tech,MBA,SWE, HCL,Chennai,1200000.PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

Well Settled Reddy Groom 32 Years / 5.7" MBA, MS, SWE, USA, 130 K, H1B, Bride - Vegetarian & Practices Bhakti (Devotional Service). Ph: 9701960229

URDU

US Citizen MS Manager MNC 36 / 5'8" single seeks beautiful graduate bride. No Dowry. Ph: 9393123434

INBRIEF

Gauri Memorial Trust to hold lecture today

Gauri Memorial Trust, to mark the 61st birth anniversary of Gauri Lankesh, is organising a memorial lecture titled 'Silenced Voices: The Threats to Journalism in New India' on Sunday. The lecture will be delivered by Sashi Kumar, senior journalist and Chairperson of Asian College of Journalism, Chennai. The event will be presided over by Testa Setalvad, social activist. It will be followed by screening of *Gauri*, a film on Gauri Lankesh made by her sister and filmmaker Kavitha Lankesh. The event will be held at Kalavidara Sangha in Chamarajpet from 5 p.m.

Live with happiness and eliminate greed: Hegde

Reva University celebrated the 74th Republic Day on its campus at Yelahanka on Thursday. Former Lokayukta and former Solicitor General of India N. Santosh Hegde was the chief guest for the day. According to a release from the university, speaking after hoisting the national flag, Mr. Hegde said, "On this day, there is no need to shed tears but everyone should celebrate and remember the glory of our nation. As humans, we should live with happiness and eliminate greed from our life." Flag hoisting was followed by cultural performances.

Union Minister visits ISKCON temple at Vasanthapura

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G. Kishan Reddy, on Saturday, visited the newly constructed ISKCON Sri Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda temple at Vasanthapura, off Kanakapura Road. He also visited the Akshaya Patra kitchen and congratulated the organisation, which recently reached the milestone of serving two million children every day. Mr. Reddy had darshan and offered special puja to Sri Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda, said a release from ISKCON.

121 fatal accidents in 9 months of FY 2022–23 under Bescom jurisdiction

Recent deaths of 11-year-old boy after coming in contact with live wire and 26-year-old Bescom lineman have brought focus back on electrical safety

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Within nine months of the financial year 2022-23, the total number of electrical accidents that occurred under the jurisdiction of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has exceeded the annual numbers of the previous three FYs. Out of 245 accidents, which occurred until December, 119 were fatal, non-departmental accidents. During 2021-22, a total of 240 accidents with 101 fatal accidents (departmental and non-departmental) were recorded.

It is noteworthy in the electrical accident statistics for the last 10 years that only during 2019-20 and 2020-21 – the pandemic-hit years – that the accident numbers were below 200. The two recent incidents that resulted in the death of an 11-year-old boy after coming in contact with a Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) wire and the death of a 26-year-old lineman of Bescom, have brought the focus back on electrical safety.

A file photo of a car damaged after a row of electric poles fell on it during heavy rain in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Safety guidelines

Dos	Don'ts
✓ Educate children regarding electrical safety and to be away from electrical wires	✗ Construct buildings close to electrical wires
✓ Always ensure that the plug socket is out of reach of children	✗ Touch snapped electrical wires/uninsulated wires. Call 1912 immediately
✓ Use 3-pin sockets and ensure that the third point is earthed	✗ Operate electrical switches/ equipment with wet hands
✓ Get wiring done through a government-licensed electrical contractor	✗ Tie banners or publicity materials to electricity poles
✓ Ensure that your installation is provided with suitable grounding/earthing	✗ Use guy wires tied to a pole for drying clothes
✓ Always use ISI-certified appliances, wires and cables	✗ Climb electric poles
✓ Check electrical gadgets regularly for safety	✗ Cut trees/branches near overhead lines
✓ Get gadgets repaired by authorised electricians only	✗ Try to remove or chop trees fallen on electrical lines
	✗ Energise fences
	✗ Take unauthorised connections from Bescom lines

Source: Bescom

Fatal accidents

The number of departmental fatal accidents has decreased this year with two incidents when compared to seven, four and nine deaths in the previous three years respectively. Speaking about non-departmental accidents, Bescom officials said there was a clear lack of awareness and a sense of negligence among the public when it comes to electrical safety.

"We have often seen issues like buildings being constructed very close to the electric lines (closer than clearance issued), coming in contact with electric lines while transporting construction materials to such places, hanging clothes to dry on electric wires and more," said Nagarjuna D, Director, Technical, Bescom.

"In rural areas, accidents take place when aluminium rods which are used to get coconuts and areca nuts down from trees come in contact with wires or when they repair motors by themselves without any safety gear. Such actions show that there is a clear lack of awareness among the public to follow rules regarding electrical safety," he further explained.

Safety gear

Sources in Bescom had said that the fatal accident of Gautham, the lineman, could have been avoided had he worn the safety equipment which was provided to him. Not donning the safety gear is a problem among linesmen, according to a Bescom engineer. An official, however, said that to reduce accidents, employees are being administered safety oaths and periodically instructed by senior officials of each subdivision, to wear safety equipment while working.

Overall, to create awareness, Bescom officials said that they have been giving wide publicity about electrical safety on print media, social media, in schools and at railway and bus stations. "We have been shifting transformers and electric lines which are near schools and hostels. To avoid accidents that happen due to trees, we have taken up Arial Bunching of Cables and Underground cabling work," Mr. Nagarjuna said.

However, citizens and activists disagreed. "It is true that there is public negligence, but they cannot be blamed entirely. There are technical problems like old transformers, saggy wires, and sudden falling of wires (especially in rural areas), of which, Bescom should also take care. It is necessary to investigate each case and go to the root of the problems and take corrective measures accordingly," said Y.G. Muralidharan, consumers rights expert.

Animal deaths highest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the ongoing year, a total of 76 animal fatalities have occurred, statistics show. When compared with the data from the last 10 years, this is the highest number of animal deaths in electrical accidents.

"When it rains, people have the habit of tying their animals to our poles or under our wires which should absolutely not been done to avoid accidents," Mr. Nagarjuna said.

Man gets life term for killing wife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city civil and sessions court convicted a man for murdering his wife and sentenced him to life imprisonment along with a fine of ₹1,000.

The convict, Kailash Chand Behar, was working in a private firm and living in a rented house in Kamakshipalya with his wife, Malathi Sahu, six years ago. The accused used to have frequent fights with Malathi and on June 19, 2018, he accused her of taking ₹1,000 from his pocket. In the melee, he smothered her using a pillow and tried to make it look like a natural death. However, the house owner, suspecting something fishy, complained to the police.

Based on the complaint, the police investigated the case and came to know from the postmortem report that the death was due to asphyxiation.

KKRTC officer suspended for forging signatures of IAS, IPS, and IFS officers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Board secretary of the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) has been suspended for allegedly forging the signatures of IAS, IPS and IFS officers while working in the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

The suspended official has been identified as Shriram Mulkavana, who was working as the chief traffic manager (commercial) in the BMTC. The management has filed two cases against Mulkavana and others working in the commercial division of the corporation for forging the signatures of two former managing directors and IAS officers (C. Shikha and Anbu Kumar) and current MD of BMTC.

The signatures were used for extending the licences issued for commercial establishments at Shivajinagar bus stand and TTMCs in BTM Layout and Vijayanagar. The accused and his subordinates are suspected to have forged the signatures of two other officers – G. Radhika, an IPS officer working as the Director (Vigilance and security), and IFS officer Surya Sen V., who was working as the Director (IT) of the corporation.

BMTC MD Sathyavathi said, "The suspended official used forged signatures of heads of the corporation. He had taken signatures from other files and used colour photocopies to indulge in corrupt practices. Without bringing to the knowledge of the management, the renewal of licences of commercial establishments or allocation of more space was done by the accused. We are investigating the financial implications of these frauds on the corporation."

BMTC bus rams bike, 35-year-old rider killed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 35-year-old two-wheeler rider was killed, while two others escaped with minor injuries when a speeding BMTC bus lost control and collided with a series of vehicles moving ahead in Chikkajala on Friday night.

The bike rider, Ayub, who was stuck under the bus, was taken to a hospital, where he succumbed to injuries later.

The bus was going from Nagawara to Hedgenagar. Two cars and three two-wheelers were damaged in the accident. The driver claimed that brake failure had led to the accident, but the police are awaiting the experts' report to ascertain the cause of the accident. Traffic on the busy main road was disrupted for some time until the police cleared the traffic.

The bus driver was arrested for causing death due to negligence, and rash and negligent driving.

Srirangapatna bypass opens for traffic

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Three days after the opening of Mandya bypass on the Mysuru-Bengaluru expressway, the authorities have announced the completion of the 7-km-long stretch of Srirangapatna bypass road on the highway, marking the completion of all the greenfield sections of the much-awaited 10-lane expressway.

While Pratap Simha, Mysuru MP, tweeted a video that declared the status of the Srirangapata bypass as completed, the Mandya district police control room confirmed that traffic was plying on the bypass, allowing the vehicles to skip Srirangapatna town. Officials in the control room also said that all the bypasses of the Mysuru-Bengaluru expressway passing through the district were open for traffic.

The authorities had already opened the 7 km-long greenfield section that bypasses Bidadi, 22 km that bypassed Ramanagaram and Channapatna and the 7 km that bypassed Maddur. On Wednesday, the 10-km-long Mandya bypass was declared open.

The 7-km-long Srirangapatna bypass on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway. M.A. SRIRAM

The completion of all the bypasses on the highway will facilitate the smooth travel of vehicles plying between Mysuru and Bengaluru to bypass all the major towns, considerably reducing the travel time. The travel time between the two cities is expected to come down from three hours to around 90 minutes. The 119-km-long expressway, which starts near the NICE road on the outskirts of Bengaluru, ends at the Outer Ring Road in Mysuru.

While the main carriageway comprises of six lanes with three lanes on either side of the median, the service roads on the two sides of the expressway will have two lanes each. The access-controlled expressway on National Highway 275, which has been taken up by Dilip Buildcon at a cost of more than ₹8,000 crore, also features 19 major bridges, 44 minor bridges, 4 rail over-bridges, and around 50 underpasses.

Though toll plazas have come up near both Bengaluru and Mysuru, the expressway is yet to be declared open. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, who inspected the expressway earlier this month, said the expressway will be declared open soon after all the pending works are completed by February end. Once the expressway is officially opened, two-wheelers and three-wheelers will be banned on the main carriageway.

Three arrested for robbing businessman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Wilson Garden police have arrested three persons for robbing ₹80 lakh from an arecanut businessman. The accused have been identified as Bhatak Shivaram Krishna Yadav, 18, and two of his associates Sheikh Champati Lal Basha, 36, and his younger brother Sheikh Champati Zakir, 27.

The accused are red sander smugglers from Andhra Pradesh having over 80 criminal cases pending against them.

The police said the accused, on December 27, intercepted the car belonging to an arecanut businessman at K.H. Junction in Shantinagar in a car with a police sticker. One of the accused wearing a police uniform threatened the victim, took away the cash bag containing ₹80 lakh, and escaped with the car keys. The victim later managed to approach the police and found that he was robbed by fake policemen. Based on the complaint, a team of police swung into action and tracked down the accused on Saturday and recovered ₹37 lakh from them. The accused were addicted to gambling and bet the robbed money at a hotel in Andhra Pradesh and lost it.

CCB officials raid shop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Economic Offences Wing of the Central Crime Branch on Saturday raided a shop in K.S. Garden, Lalbagh Road, which was allegedly manufacturing steel goods and products and selling them under the names of reputed firms. Based on a complaint, the police raided Kolkata Pipe Fitting shops and seized material worth ₹9,69,600. The police also arrested one person.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from **Sri.M.Mohan Raju S/o M.Narayana Raju,** residing at No.12, 6th Cross, 'A' Main, Ganesh Nagar, Kodigehalli, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore – 560097

Any person (s), having any claim over the schedule property may lodge his / her / their objections of claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidences with regard to such claims with the undersigned within **10 days** hereof, failing which, our client will proceed to complete the process of purchase. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained / binding on our client.

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All that piece and parcel of property **bearing no.4,** BBMP katha no. 828/652/626/4 comprised in carved out of land bearing Sy no. 180/2B (vide official memorandum No.B.DIS.ALN.SR (N)185/1989-90, dated 09.04.1990 issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore) situated at **Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** admeasuring East to West : 40 ft., and North to South : 30 ft., in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft., together with stilt, ground, first, second and terrace floors and bounded as follows :

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Pallavi.C, Advocate,
Nos. 520 & 508, 3rd Floor,
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K.G. Road, Bangalore- 560009

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU (SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 16/01/2023]
CMP No. 527/2021
[VIDEO CONFERENCING/ PHYSICAL HEARING]

PETITIONER/S: M/S. VENKATESHA EDUCATION SOCIETY AND ANOTHER

VS.

RESPONDENT/S:
NEPOLIAN MOIRANGTHEM

TO,
RESPONDENT
NEPOLIAN MOIRANGTHEM
S/o. Mr. Moirangthem Surjit
Uripok Bachaspati Lukai,
Imphal, Manipur 795 001.
RESPONDENT/S

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court **Under Section 11 (6) of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996** as in the copy annexed hereunto.

Emergent Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on **13/02/2023 AT 10:30 A.M** in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the **16th Day of January 2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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Information Security Management Systems (ISMS)

Date : 12, 18, 19, 25, & 26 Feb. 2023 **Time :** 10.00 a.m. to 5.00. p.m.

Contents : Overview of ISMS and with recent changes in ISO/IEC 27001:2022 with focus on revised Annexure-A-Controls, Auditing Context of Organization to Improvement, Guidelines, for auditing management system based on ISO 19011-2018, Principles of Auditing, Risk-based Approach, Managing audit programme, planning, conducting, reporting & carrying out audit follow-up, auditor competence, hands-on-exercises in mapping of Terms & Definitions, conducting Opening Meeting, Roles & Responsibilities of audit team, creating of Audit Plan, preparation of audit checklist, audit methods, audit findings, conduct simulated audit, (role-play), generation of Nonconformity Report, Conducting Closing Meeting, Audit Report contents and carrying out audit follow-up

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GOVT OF INDIA CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

Mirror, mirror: Actor Hiramoti gets ready for a performance. Donning make up and costumes for some of the roles takes up considerable time.

All the world's a stage: Shumang Leela means courtyard performance. The audience is seated on all four sides of the small stage.

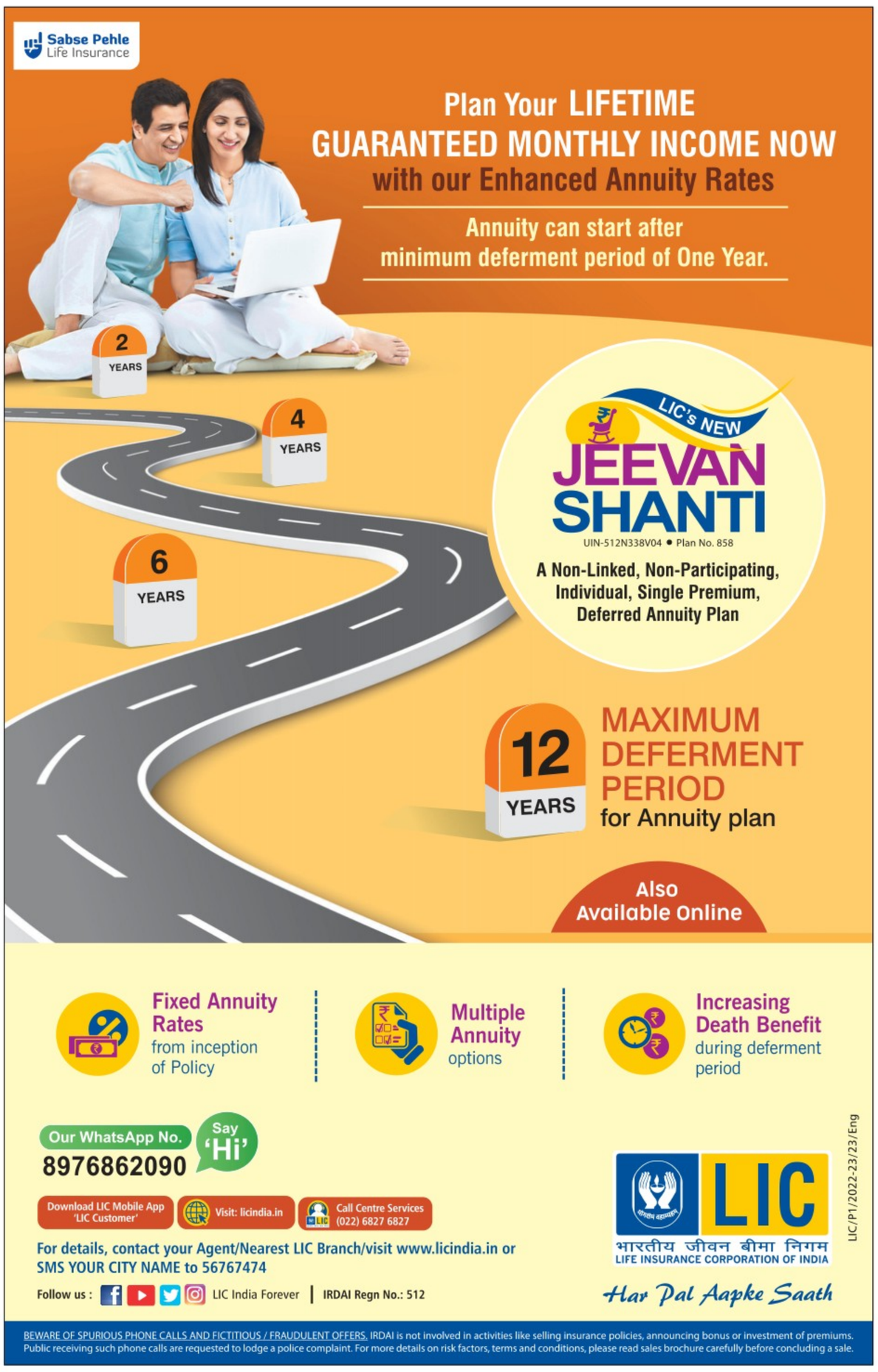
Deft dialogue: Even in the age of smartphones and OTT platforms, the live performances attract sizeable crowds.

Brief respite: An actor takes rest in a dressing room. Each performance requires several hours of commitment and plenty of energy.

Bring out the popcorn: A group of women enjoying a courtyard performance.

Fun elements: Music, dance, action, martial art sequences and stunts have become part of the folk theatre form as it constantly evolves.

Making meaning: The plays serve as a platform for cultural and development communication as they often have a social or moral message.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BISCUITS

Close to 68% of women aged 15-49 in State own house or land alone or jointly with family

This is significantly higher than the national average; ownership of property by women enhances their ability to travel to places outside the community, shows study

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Close to 68% of women aged between 15 and 49 in Karnataka own a house and/or land, alone or jointly with other family members, as of 2019-20, which is significantly higher than the national average of 43.3%.

The ownership of property by women enhanced their ability to travel to the market, health centre, and other places outside the community, and to make independent decisions about their employment, health, and use of money, according to a recent study of the World Bank.

In Karnataka, 67.6% of women aged between 15 and 49 own a house and/or land, alone or jointly with others, compared to 22.9% in Maharashtra, 43.5% in Odisha, 43.6% in Gujarat, and 22.7% in Delhi (NCT) as on 2019-20.

In Karnataka, 64.5% of women in urban areas, and 69.7% in rural areas own a house or agricultural plot alone or jointly with others in the same period. The share of the property or land owned by women in Karnataka increased by about 15.8% from 51.8% in 2015-16, to 67.7 % in 2019-20.

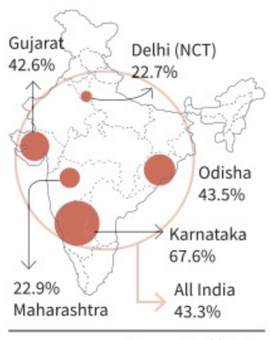
In urban Karnataka, the increase was almost 20% during the period, said the study titled "Gender-Based Discounts on Taxes Related to Property: Role in Encouraging Female Ownership A Case Study of Indian States and Cities" (2023) authored by Rajul Awasthi, Katie Pyle, Namita Aggarwal, and Parvina Rakhimova. It found that ownership of property led to increase in women's education, incomes. Assets are important aspects of women's bargaining power and assets are important for her own welfare and that of her children, noted the study.

However, data for Maharashtra, Delhi, and Odisha showed a decrease in women ownership between 2015-16 and 2019-20 by 11% and 20%, respectively. "The overall picture for urban India shows a small increase in women property and land ownership during 2015-20, with a slightly larger overall increase in women ownership in rural areas. In India overall, ownership is highest in rural areas, though the gap is narrowing in some places, such as Karnataka," it said.

How it empowers

Evidence showed that women who have property in their name feel empowered and their property ownership can have a transformative effect on their lives and those of their families and children. Inequality in ownership, control, and use of productive assets can impede a woman's control over household resources and spending decisions, with welfare implications for future generations, noted the study. The study found that nine of the 12 cities surveyed had stamp duty discounts available to women registering a property in their names. In Ahmedabad and Surat, women do not pay any registration charges. In contrast, in Karnataka/Bengaluru stamp duty discounts are not offered to women.

Proportion of women aged 15-49 owning property in 2019-20



Source: World Bank

Gifts worth ₹1 lakh stolen during IPS officer's wedding at star hotel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gifts worth ₹1 lakh were stolen during the wedding of an IPS officer at a star hotel in Vasanthnagar on January 14.

The incident came to light 10 days later, following which the officer, Melvyn Varghese, filed a complaint with the High Grounds police station on January 24.

Mr. Varghese, who is a 2022 batch officer and currently under training in Hyderabad, had a reception at the hotel where he received expensive gifts from guests, including a watch, handbags and vouchers worth around ₹1 lakh, which were later stolen.

Mr. Varghese suspected that a person identified as Sundar Murugeshan, who had come to decorate the stage, had stolen the valuables.

Based on a complaint, the police have registered a case of theft and efforts are on to track down Sundar.

Fusion band 'Shakti' enthralls fans of all ages with unique musical performance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indo-jazz fusion band Shakti recently presented a music performance enthralling a 2,500-strong audience in Bengaluru.

The internationally-renowned band of living legends – guitarist John McLaughlin, tabla player Zakir Hussain, violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan, vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, and percussionist V. Selvaganesh – came together for a world tour to mark its golden jubilee and started it with their first show in Bengaluru.

Presented by JSW Group, in partnership with HSBC and promoted and produced by Hyperlink Brand Solutions and Paytm Insider, co-sponsored by 100 Pipers Glassware and *The Hindu*, the event was held at the Jayamahal Palace Hotel. Radio One also came onboard as the event's radio partner. The quintet of the iconic band presented a fabulous fusion of Jazz Rock, Hindustani Classical and Carnatic, which is termed fusion music, a genre that Shakti has birthed and offered the audience an exhilaratingly breathtaking sonic experience.

Unifying the music of North and South India along with western harmony, the musical group presented a concert that was of around 130 minutes. The electrifying acoustic group also left their fans in awe as they performed from their all-new special album. Rachna Panikker, Vice President, Culture Marketing and Intellectual Properties at Hyperlink Brand Solutions, stated, "Shakti has a very distinct acoustic sound and the audience could sense the strong dose of Indian music in their mix. Every minute was fabulous and the new compositions from their newly launched album made a great impact."

John McLaughlin, Zakir Hussain, Shankar Mahadevan, Ganesh Rajagopalan and Selvaganesh Vinayakram, performing during Shakti - 50th Anniversary India Tour, in Bengaluru on January 20.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JAN. 29	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:19
RISE 12:26	SET 00:34
MONDAY, JAN. 30	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:19
RISE 13:10	SET 01:26
TUESDAY, JAN. 31	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:20
RISE 13:55	SET 02:18

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	19
Mysuru	31	12
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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Training programme on health

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Divecha Centre for Climate Change (DCCC), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is organizing a two-day training programme on 'Health in a changing climate: Empowering health professionals' from February 3. It will be held at the DCCC Auditorium, IISc. campus.

DCCC in a release said the programme is being held for health professionals and is aimed to sensitise and educate the medical fraternity about the perils of climate change.

Further, the release said that the scientists will highlight their ongoing research activities and their scientific findings on climate change.

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I can now spend more time with my son: Sania

Father Imran remembers some of the wonderful moments in his daughter's career

TENNIS

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Family time: Sania after the Australian Open mixed doubles final in Melbourne on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Imran Mirza was in a familiar role, watching from the stands his famous daughter Sania Mirza and her mixed doubles partner Rohan Bopanna play in the final of the 2023 Australian Open (they finished runner-up). This was her final Grand Slam appearance, having announced her decision to quit the sport next month.

And, when the 36-year-old Sania was in tears during her post-match comments, the mood was reflected in the Mirza family. For they knew the sacrifices done to facilitate the evolution of the gifted, young talent into a champion.

Greatest moment

"For me, Sania winning 2015 Wimbledon was the greatest moment. Then comes being ranked World No. 1 for 91 weeks," the proud father told *The Hindu*.

"It all began in 2005 when she won the WTA Hyderabad Open women's singles. The 14 medals for India (eight in Asiads, four in Afro-Asian Games and two in Commonwealth Games are truly memorable too," he said.

It was a pity that after the career-best World ranking of No. 27 in women's singles in 2007, a wrist injury forced her out of the circuit for one year in 2008, a phase which could have meant curtains for many.

But, Sania, as always, proved she was a fighter and remained one.

"Beating Grand Slam champions Martina Hingis (twice), (Svetlana) Kuznetsova and (Victoria) Azarenka and defeating Dinara Safina just before she became World No. 1 was equally remarkable," Imran said.

Rare emotion

Sania, for once, displayed emotion.

"Never thought I'd get to play a Grand Slam final in front of my son. If I cry, these are just happy tears," Sania said, tears rolling down her cheeks at the post-match briefing.

"My son needs me more than ever now and I can't wait to live a slightly quieter and calmer life while giving him more of my time than I have been able to so far," Sania said.

Well, the lifestyle may not be the same again for the Mirzas, who had become used to a rigorous daily schedule, taking care of every minute detail of Sania's tennis career for close to three decades.

Sania's Slams

A truly grand journey: Sania's Grand Slam trophies (from top left, clockwise) with Mahesh Bhupathi, Australian Open, 2009; Bhupathi again, French Open, 2012; Bruno Soares, US Open, 2014; Martina Hingis, Wimbledon, 2015; Hingis again, US Open, 2015; and Hingis for the third time, Australian Open, 2016. FILE PHOTOS

INBRIEF

Bharat Electronics Limited's Q3 net profit rises by 36%

Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) posted a net profit of ₹1,641.31 crore during the third quarter that ended in December, a 36% jump over ₹1.207.12 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. In the third quarter, the PSU's turnover stood at ₹11.005.89 crore, reporting a growth of 24.46% over a turnover of ₹8.842.98 crore it posted in the same quarter last year. BEL's order book position as of January 1, 2023, was ₹50,116 crore. The company's Board of Directors met on Saturday and recommended an interim dividend of ₹0.6 per share. The dividend would be payable to all the eligible shareholders holding shares as on the record date i.e. February 10, 2023, the company said in a statement.

Modi, Shah wish Bommai on his birthday

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Draupadi Murmu were among several leaders who wished Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on his 63rd birthday on Saturday. Mr. Modi called Mr. Bommai and wished him a healthy life to serve the people along with working for the overall development of the State, said a release. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented a bouquet and wished him. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa too wished him. Interestingly, birthday wishes were tweeted from the Chief Minister's own Twitter handle, which caused much amusement among the Twitterati.

Will not speak against Yediyurappa in public: Yatnal

BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has announced that he will not speak ill of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in public henceforth, as per the BJP high command's instructions. He told journalists in Vijayapura that he would not speak negatively about Mr. Yediyurappa or his children in future. "I have been speaking against his alleged corruption or nepotism. But that will not happen in future," he said. He denied reports that the party had issued him a notice against some of his statements that were reportedly against party discipline.

Cong. to petition EC seeking action against BJP leaders

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has decided to submit a petition to the Election Commission of India on Monday seeking action against the ruling BJP leaders who are allegedly hatching a conspiracy to woo voters in the Assembly elections by distributing ₹6,000 each. KPCC working president Ramalinga Reddy and leaders V.S. Ugrappa and H.M. Revanna have decided submit the petition to the EC through Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena, and seek action against BJP leaders Basavaraj Bommai, J.P. Nadda, Nalin Kumar Kateel, and Ramesh Jarkiholi for their efforts to allegedly bribe voters. A couple of days ago, the Congress leaders, in a complaint to High Grounds Police Station in Bengaluru, alleged that Mr. Jarkiholi had announced in Belagavi that the BJP would pay ₹6,000 to every voter in the polls.

BJP resolved Mahadayi issue, while Congress and JD(S) fooled people: Shah

Project will benefit farmers in several Karnataka districts, says Union Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A large number of BJP supporters took part in Union Minister Amit Shah's roadshow in Kundagol of Dharwad district on Saturday. KIRAN BAKALE

The BJP government at the Centre has resolved the Mahadayi river water issue and cleared the project plan by Karnataka, which will benefit farmers in several districts, Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, said on Saturday.

He was speaking in the saffron party's Jana Sankalpa Yatre at Mugat Khan Hubballi village near Kittur in Belagavi district. The Union government recently cleared the detailed project report of the Kalasa and Banduri nala diversion schemes, in the Mahadayi basin. In the DPR, however, they are cited as drinking water projects and not irrigation projects.

Coming down heavily on the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular), he said the two parties have been "fooling the people and farmers of Karnataka for decades" in the name of Mahadayi. "But they did nothing to provide the Mahadayi waters to the people. On the one hand, the Congress leaders kept promising to the people here that they will implement the project, but on the other it announced in its manifesto in Goa that the project will not be allowed," he said.

"However, the BJP has kept its promise to the people. We have resolved the issue by clearing the confusion in both the riparian States. We have done this so that the Mahadayi waters will benefit innumerable farmers in several districts of Karnataka,'' he said.

In his opening remarks, he recalled several local icons and deities. He remembered Alur Venkat Rao, Karnataka State unification activist, by calling him "an associate" of Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar. "Mr. Rao had extended great help to Veer Savarkar in his freedom movement,'' Mr. Shah said. He congratulated Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for unveiling the portrait of V.D. Savarkar in the Suvarna Soudha.

Mr. Shah announced that the Jana Sankalpa Yatre rally was the beginning of the BJP's electoral campaign in Karnataka. "This rally is our battle bugle call for elections. This is just to remind you that you have bring back the BJP with full majority,'' he said.

On Congress and JD(S)

"The people of Karnataka have two options before them, on one side are the Congress and the JD(S), which are the parties that are based on corruption and nepotism, and on the other side is the BJP, which is a group of patriots who are working to take India to the forefront of the world," he said.

The JD(S), he argued, is a family-based party that tries to tie up with the Congress and come to power even if it wins only 20-30 seats.

"The people of Karnataka should realise that every vote given to the JD(S) is a vote that will benefit the Congress,'' he said.

Jarkiholi not seen

BJP MLA Mahantesh Dodagoudar, Mr. Bommai, and other leaders were present. However, Ramesh Jarkiholi, former Minister, was conspicuous by his absence.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shah held a massive roadshow in Kundagol of Dharwad district, a constituency presently represented by Kusumavati Shivalli of the Congress.

'IPC, Cr.PC being amended to make forensic evidence mandatory'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah laying the foundation stone for the campus of the National Forensic Sciences University in Dharwad on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The government would amend IPC (Indian Penal Code) and Cr.PC (Criminal Procedure Code) to make consideration of forensic evidence a mandatory requirement in adjudication of criminal offences, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah said on Saturday.

He was addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for the campus of National Forensic Sciences University on the premises of University of Agricultural Sciences in Dharwad on Saturday.

New techniques

Mr. Shah said as criminals were using new techniques and ways for various offences, forensic evidences had become crucial for containing crimes and detecting criminals.

"There is a need for making policy changes to check crimes and also for detection. The investigations have to be carried out based on forensic sciences. Already, forensic evidence is must for offences attracting imprisonment over six years and we will amend IPC and Cr.PC to make mandatory consideration of forensic evidences," he said.

Mr. Shah said: "The National Forensic Sciences University will work towards encouraging academic learning of forensic sciences along with study of applied behavioural sciences. It will disseminate knowledge on cyber security, digital crime, DNA forensics, food and farm forensic sciences, artificial intelligence."

Mr. Shah said that the university would not only provide employment to youths but also help in containing crimes effectively. Already agreements had been signed with 70 countries. Fingerprints of 1.5 crore criminals had been recorded in the National Crime Records Bureau, he said.

Mr. Bommai said a forensic sciences university was the need of the hour as it would enable grooming of forensic experts through institutional and research set up along with crime detection.

Deepening divisions in Gowda clan come out in the open

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Bhavani Revanna

In a sign of deepening divisions in the Gowda clan over allotment of seats for the upcoming Assembly elections in Karnataka, Hassan MLC Suraj Revanna and Lok Sabha member Prajwal Revanna on Saturday come out strongly in support of their mother Bhavani Revanna's pitch to contest on JD (S) ticket from Hassan.

Both sons claimed that the candidates of Hassan district would be finalised by the party's national president H.D. Deve Gowda, after taking suggestions from H.D. Revanna, former Minister and their father.

This comes days after former Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy ruled out the candidature of his sister-in-law Ms. Bhavani, who had declared herself the candidate from the constituency at a meeting. Contradicting her, Mr. Kumaraswamy had said that "an ordinary party worker" would be the candidate and that the party did not require a person from the family to contest.

Speaking in response to thse developments in Haradur in Arkalgud taluk on Saturday, Mr. Suraj said nobody knew the ground realities of Hassan better than H.D. Revanna. "Mr. Deve Gowda and Mr. Revanna will finalise the candidate for Hassan. Bhavani Revanna is a suitable candidate for the constituency. Any discussion of fielding an ordinary party worker in the constituency should be put on hold," he said.

Mr. Suraj maintained that Ms. Bhavani's contest was necessary to strengthen the party organisation and to retain workers in the party in the district. "If she contests, the party will definitely win the seat," he said.

Echoing similar sentiments, his younger brother and Lok Sabha member Prajwal Revanna said that Mr. Deve Gowda would visit Hassan and hold discussions with party MLAs and Mr. Revanna before finalising the candidates. "In all elections, it is Mr. Deve Gowda who choses the candidates of Hassan district. Because of health complications, he has not been able to visit," he said.

Meanwhile, a few workers gathered near Mr. Prajwal's official residence in Hassan, raising slogans in favour of Ms. Bhavani. They demanded that the party field her from Hassan.

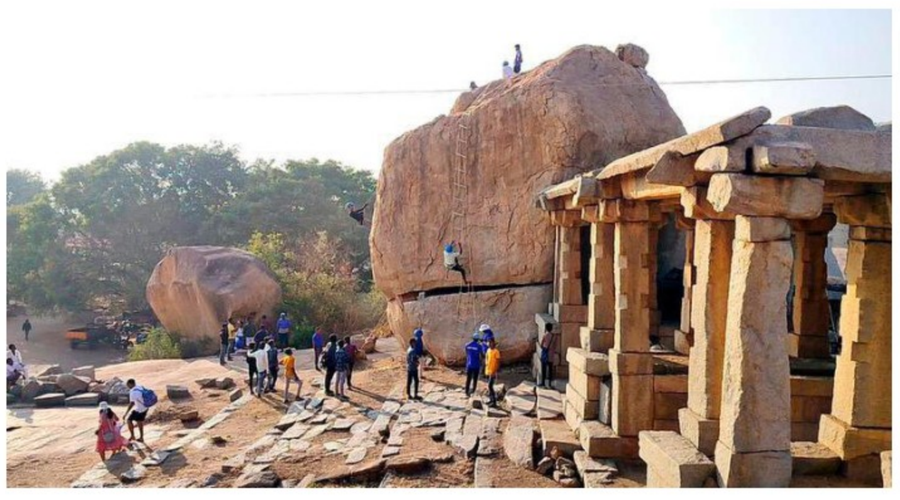
Currently, the Gowda family has a presence in all Houses of Parliament and the State legislature.

Mr. Deve Gowda is member of the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Prajwal Revanna is a Lok Sabha MP, Mr. Revanna represents Holenarsipur in the State Assembly, while Mr. Suraj Revanna is MLC.

Besides, Mr. Kumaraswamy and Anita Kumaraswamy are both members of the State Assembly. In the coming elections, Ms. Anita has announced that she will relinquish her Ramanagaram constituency to her son Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

People throng to watch the spectacle of Hampi Utsav

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI



Tourists boarding a helicopter to have a view of Hampi on the second day of the utsav on Saturday; (right) rock climbing competition under way. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Taking advantage of the weekend break, thousands of tourists and people from surrounding villages thronged Hampi in Vijayanagara district to witness various cultural and sports events organised on the second day of Hampi Utsav-2023 on Saturday.

The crowd that was thin in the morning gradually grew, and by evening, the UNESCO World Heritage Site was full of people visiting exhibition stalls and the various sports and cultural events. The monuments were illuminated by evening, drawing bigger numbers.

The district administration offered a paid service - Hampi by Sky - a programme to allow the people to watch the historical monuments of Hampi from a helicopter. A temporary helipad was created on the Mayura Bhuvaneshwari Hotel premises for the purpose. A tariff of ₹3,800 was fixed for the fly of 6-7 minutes over Hampi, which is often termed as open museum of marvellous monuments.

Tourists and people were found enthusiastically waiting in queue for their turn to board the helicopter and take a glimpse of Vijayanagara, the capital of the historical Vijayanagara Empire. Six people were allowed to fly in a helicopter at a time.

As per the information provided by the Department of Information and Public Relations, the helicopters made 16 rounds of flying after the programme started on Friday.

Traditional wrestling was one of the major attractions on the second day of the utsav.

As Tourism Minister Anand Singh flagged off the competition by playing the traditional drum, two women wrestlers took part in the event to mark the beginning of the competition, in which over 100 wrestlers participated.

The recitation of poems organised at Virupakshesh-wara Temple premises in Hampi was another big draw. The themes of the poems ranged from protest against exploitative caste system to challenging the State and the ruling class. B.R. Police Patil of Banahatti caught the attention of the audience by presenting in his poem the developments that unfolded after the assassination of scholar M.M. Kalaburgi.

Other events that attracted the crowd included international rock-climbing competition, weightlifting, and water sports at Kamalapur lake. The utsav comes to an end on Sunday evening with a series of cultural programmes.

Telugu actor critical in Bengaluru hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The condition of Telugu film actor Nandamuri Taraka Ratna, who suffered a cardiac arrest at Kuppam on Friday, is said to be critical, according to a health bulletin released by the Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The actor was initially shifted to a hospital in Kuppam with resuscitation for 45 minutes and primary treatment.

Doctors there advised to move him to a tertiary centre due to his critical condition.

"We were requested to transfer him to Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences (Narayana Hrudayalaya), Bengaluru, and a team of doctors from our hospital travelled to Kuppam to evaluate his condition. He was found to have an Anterior Wall Myocardial Infarction with Balloon Angioplasty, on Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump (IABP) and Vasoactive support," stated the hospital bulletin.

He was transferred to the Bengaluru hospital via road at 1 a.m. on Saturday. "On arriving, higher level diagnostics showed that his condition was highly critical due to the cardiogenic shock after the Myocardial Infarction. Evaluation of his condition will continue with treatment under standard guidelines and protocols. He is currently under the care of a multi-disciplinary clinical team. He remains in a critical state on maximum support. He will continue to be under rigorous evaluation and treatment in the coming days," the bulletin added.

THE HINDU GROUP

Asha Bright
Kanyakumari

D Dallton
Madurai

Janani Ganesan
Chennai

Jass
Nagercoil

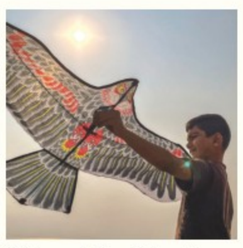
Kumar S S
Marthandam

Preeti Tamilarasan
Chennai

Ramya Sriram
Chennai

Sai Sanjay Prasath
Madurai

Sathish N
Chennai



Shivani Garikipati
Vishakapatnam

Congratulations to the winners of

PICTURE PERFECT PONGAL

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025

TAMIL NADU COMMON ENTRANCE TEST (TANCET – 2023) for M.B.A. and M.C.A.	COMMON ENGINEERING ENTRANCE TEST AND ADMISSIONS (CEETA-PG - 2023) for M.E./M.Tech./M.Arch./M.Plan.
Applications are invited for Tamil Nadu Common Entrance Test **(TANCET-2023)** to be conducted by Anna University, Chennai on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu from the candidates who seek admission to **M.B.A. and M.C.A.** Degree Programmes for the academic year 2023–2024 offered at University Departments, Constituent Colleges of Anna University, Annamalai University, Government and Government Aided Colleges (Engineering, Arts & Science Colleges) and Self-Financing Colleges (Engineering, Arts & Science Colleges including stand-alone Institutions) in Tamil Nadu.	Applications are invited for Common Engineering Entrance Test and Admissions **(CEETA-PG - 2023)** to be conducted by Anna University, Chennai on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu from the candidates who seek admission to **M.E./M.Tech./M.Arch./M.Plan** Degree Programmes for the academic year 2023–2024 offered at ***University Departments, Constituent Colleges of Anna University, Annamalai University and Government Engineering Colleges only***. Limited number of monthly Scholarships offered by Government of Tamil Nadu are available to the students as per merit and following the reservation norms to pursue the higher studies.

Candidates can register only through online and the Entrance Test fee can be paid only through Online using the link https://tancet.annauniv.edu/tancet. The hall ticket and mark sheet should be downloaded from the above Web portal only.

FEES AND DATE OF ENTRANCE TEST

Programme	SC/SCA/ST of Tamil Nadu	Others	Date of Examination
TANCET - M.C.A.	Rs.500/-	Rs.1000/-	25.03.2023 (FN)
TANCET - M.B.A.	Rs.500/-	Rs.1000/-	25.03.2023 (AN)
CEETA-PG M.E./M.Tech./M.Arch./ M.Plan. (* inclusive of Counselling Charges for admission)	Rs.750/-* + GST on Counselling fee Rs.250/-	Rs.1500/-* + GST on Counselling fee Rs.500/-	26.03.2023 (FN)

IMPORTANT DATES			
	i)	Commencement of Registration of application (online only)	01.02.2023
	ii)	Last date for Registration of application	22.02.2023

ELIGIBILITY: Details of the eligibility criteria and the procedure for registration are available in the Web portal **https://tancet.annauniv.edu/tancet.** Other State candidates can appear for the entrance test and the eligibility conditions will be stipulated by the admitting authority / University.

DIPR/85/Display/2023

SECRETARY, TANCET

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM
(E-Submission)

IFB No.	24 / F.Retrofitting Muthur -2nd Call /SDO(T3)/ CE/ CBE/ 2022/ Dt:25.01.2023
Fund	Jal Jeevan Mission **2022-2023**
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Siruvani Nagar, Bharathipark Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Downloading Period	**30.01.2023 to 15.02.2023 upto 15.00 Hours (As per Server time)**
Available website	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
EMD Payable at	On line Mode through E-tendering portal.
Pre Bid meeting	**08.02.2023** at **11.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**15.02.2023** before **15.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**16.02.2023** at **15.30** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. In Crore including @ 18% GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakhs)
1.	Retrofitting of existing CWSS to Muthur and 5 other TPs, Vellakoil, Kangayam and Dharapuram Municipalities and 1790 rural habitations in Karur, Tiruppur and Erode Districts.(Construction period : 12 months, Trial Run : 3 months and Operation and Maintenance of entire Muthur -Kangeyam CWSS for 24 months on MLD Basis) -2nd Call	56.40	42.30

DIPR/ 487 /TENDER/2023

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Coimbatore.

SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS | "சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

The First Death Anniversary of

SRI. M.C NARAYANAGOWDA
IPS (Rtd.)
5.11.1953 to 29.01.2022
No day passes without remembering you,
You were a great friend,
With lots of love and affection.
Mohammad Wazir Ahmed, IPS (Rtd.)

IN THE COURT OF THE 1 ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU - CCH-2
P & SC No. 61/2023

BETWEEN:
Sri. ANAND. S
S/o T.V. Sethuraman
Aged about 29 years
R/at No. 795, A Block
19th Cross, 14th Main
Sahakara Nagar
Bengaluru-560092 -- **PETITIONER**

AND:
NIL --- **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner Anand S is the husband of deceased Shweta Murali, initiated a petition against respondent seeking the relief Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act for grant of succession certificate pertaining to the claim of the Insurance policy of Late. Shweta Murali, who died on 21.08.2022 and also for other reliefs. You are here- by summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question-s relating to this petition. OR who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all questions, on the 7th day of March month of 2023 at 11.00 A.M. pending on the file of CCH-02, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE ITEM

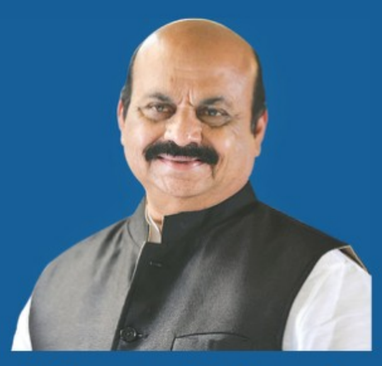
Policy bearing No. 421500/31/2022/1039. The Oriental Insurance Company Limited, Shankar House No.1, RMV Extension, Mekhri Circle Branch, Bengaluru, Rs. 15,00,000/-

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 25th day of January 2023.

By Order of the Court
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioner:
Smt. M.R. Shamala,
Sri. Narasimha Reddy,
S.N. ASSOCIATES, No. 1064/32
2nd Floor, Ramamurty Arcade,
Triveni Road, Gokula 1st Stage
2nd Phase, Bengaluru-54
snassociates2010@gmail.com
Ph:9448226534,9945382534

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Divine presence
Sri Sri Sri Basavamurthy Madara Chennaiah Swamiji
Peetadhyaksharu,
Shivasharana Madara Chennaiah Mutt

In Joint Collaboration of GoK and BBMP Dedication to the Public of

VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT WORKS
in Govindarajanagara Assembly Constituency

Inauguration by: Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai, Hon'ble Chief Minister

Date: 29.01.2023, Sunday at 5.30 P.M. Venue: Bharath Rathna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Ground, 1st Main, Dr. Rajkumar Ward, Bengaluru

New Building of "Magadi Road Police Station"
Well equipped Rooms, Conference Room, Technical Cell, Control Room, Gym Room, 2 Prison Cells and other facilities

"Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium"
Area: 8 Acres 29 Guntas
Bharath Rathna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Plaza, Athletic/Skating Track, Basket Ball, Volley Ball Courts and other facilities

"Over Bridge" of West of Chord Road
Additional Over Bridge constructed at the Junction of 72nd Cross and Basaveswarnagara Main Road.
Length of Over Bridge: 755.472 Mtrs., Width: 7.50 Mtrs with 2 Lanes

New Building of "Govt. First Grade College" Magadi Road
Area: 1 Acre 11 Guntas, Well equipped Principal and Personnel Rooms, Library, Play Ground and other facilities

Lighting of the Lamp

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs

Sri M. Rajeev Chandrashekar
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & Information Technology

Presided by

Sri V. Somanna
Hon'ble Minister for Housing & Infrastructure Development & MLA, Govindarajnagara Assembly Constituency

August Presence

Sri Govinda M. Karajol
Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation

Sri R. Ashoka
Hon'ble Minister for Revenue

Sri Araga Jnanendra
Hon'ble Minister for Home

Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT-BT, Science & Technology, Skill Development

Chief Guests

Sri S.T. Somashekar
Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation

Sri B.A. Basavaraj
Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development

Sri K. Gopalaiah
Hon'ble Minister for Excise

Sri N. Munirathna
Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture & Planning, Programme Monitoring & Statistics

Sri N. Nagaraju (M.T.B.)
Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Small Scale Industries

Sri S.R. Vishwanath
Hon'ble Chairman, Bangalore Development Authority & MLA, Yelahanka Constituency

Sri M. Satish Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Whip of Ruling Party in Legislative Assembly & MLA, Bommanahalli Constituency

Sri B.K. Hariprasad
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition Party in Legislative Council & MLC

Dr. Y.A. Narayana Swamy
Hon'ble Chief Whip of Ruling Party, Legislative Council & MLC

Sri M. Krishnappa
Hon'ble Chairman, Okkaliga Development Corporation & MLA, Bengaluru South Constituency

Sri Tejasvi Surya
Hon'ble MP
Bengaluru South

Sri P.C. Mohan
Hon'ble MP
Bengaluru Central

Sri Jairam Ramesh
Hon'ble MP
(Rajya Sabha)

Sri Jaggesh
Hon'ble MP
(Rajya Sabha)

Sri Lehar Singh Siroya
Hon'ble MP
(Rajya Sabha)

Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah
Hon'ble MP
(Rajya Sabha)

Sri G.C. Chandrashekar
Hon'ble MP
(Rajya Sabha)

Sri Narayana Koragappa
Hon'ble MP
(Rajya Sabha)

Sri S. Suresh Kumar
Hon'ble MLA
Rajajinagar Assembly Constituency

Sri Dinesh Gundu Rao
Hon'ble MLA
Gandhinagar Assembly Constituency

Sri Aravinda Limbavali
Hon'ble MLA
Mahadevpura Assembly Constituency

Sri Puttanna
Hon'ble MLC
Teacher's Constituency (Bengaluru City)

Sri T.A. Sharavana
Hon'ble MLC

Sri K. Govindaraj
Hon'ble MLC

Sri P.R. Ramesh
Hon'ble MLC

Sri A. Devegowda
Hon'ble MLC, Graduates Constituency (Bengaluru City)

Sri Muniraju Gowda P.M. (Tulasi)
Hon'ble MLC

Sri H.S. Gopinath Reddy
Hon'ble MLC

Sri M. Nagaraju
Hon'ble MLC

Sri S. Keshava Prasad
Hon'ble MLC

Sri V. Somanna, Hon'ble Minister for Housing & Infrastructure Development interacting with the officials of the Palike

Hearty Welcome to all Hon'ble Members of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble MLAs & MLCs of the City and General Public

As is enshrined in our Constitution, **to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture** is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

Rakesh Singh, IAS
Administrator, BBMP

Tushar Giri Nath, IAS
Chief Commissioner, BBMP

Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distance | Maintain Hand Hygiene | Covid-19 vaccination

M BG-BGE

Researchers offer tips to save Kerala's sinking island

Navamy Sudhish
KOLLAM

A study conducted by the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) has revealed anthropogenic interventions as the main reason for the plight of Munroe Thuruthu residents, Kerala's first set of climate refugees. The islanders are facing steady land subsidence, tidal flooding and lower agricultural productivity, all of which have triggered a mass exodus from the region.

The study by the research organisation proposes reverse landscaping, a plan integrating all aspects of earth and social sciences, to retrieve the landscape's original geomorphic state. Since Ashtamudi Lake is emerging as an important tourist destination, the study stresses for sustainable management plans to protect the Ramsar-listed wetland. Apart from strict regulatory measures to control sand mining from Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada river, the current construction methods on the island should be replaced with well-studied engineering techniques.

An artificial sedimentation process to eradicate the saline banks of deep basins is also suggested as a method and the study recommends using the sediments deposited in the Thenmala reservoir and those removed through dredging navigation channels for the purpose.

Tough times: Munroe Thuruthu residents have been facing steady land subsidence and lower agricultural productivity.C. SURESHKUMAR

The multidisciplinary research conducted during the last five years calls for suitable strategies to protect the highly vulnerable estuarine ecosystem.

According to the study, almost 39% of the land area has been lost with Peringalam and Cheriyakadavu islands recording a land depletion of around 12% and 47% respectively.

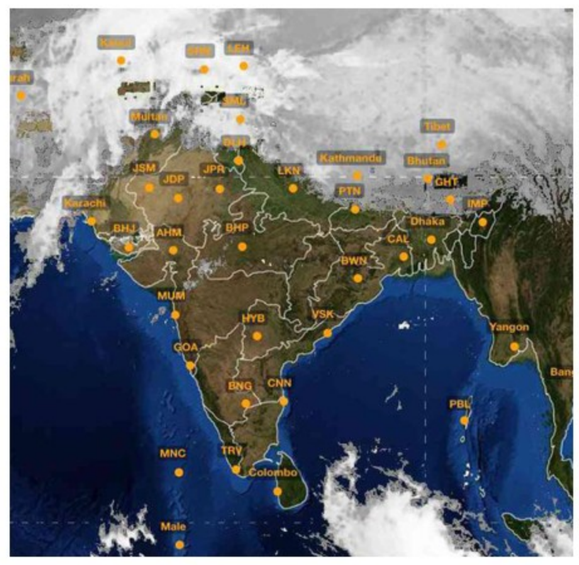
"Though the degradation started in 1980s, its severity was felt only in the 2000s. Unregulated sand mining and the resultant riverbed pools in the Kallada river have largely contributed to the current degradation. After the construction of the Thenmala dam, the sediment supply through the river too was blocked," says M. K. Rafeeque, who carried out the study with T.R. Anoop, M.K. Sreeraj, R. Prasad, L. Sheela Nair and A. Krishnakumar.

While the research team used remote sensing data and land survey records to analyse the island's morphological changes, electrical resistivity meter surveys were conducted to study the sub-surface geology of the land area.

"We also conducted a bathymetry survey of the Kallada river and found that the depth was around 14 metres. There were many saline pools affecting both soil fertility and groundwater quality. The increased levels of soil salinity had impacted agriculture while the climate change too contributed to the ecological challenges," says Mr. Rafeeque.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm with lightning/hail likely at isolated places over Ladakh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and central Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.6	14.8	Kozhikode	—	34.2	23.5
Ahmedabad	—	26.7	16.0	Kurnool	—	33.0	16.7
Aizawl	—	23.5	11.1	Lucknow	—	23.0	8.5
Allahabad	—	25.0	8.8	Madurai	—	34.2	20.2
Bengaluru	—	29.4	14.7	Mangaluru	—	34.4	22.0
Bhopal	—	—	12.8	Mumbai	—	34.5	19.8
Bhubaneswar	—	32.0	18.5	Mysuru	—	30.4	11.4
Chandigarh	—	24.4	7.3	New Delhi	—	23.8	6.1
Chennai	—	30.3	21.5	Patna	—	22.9	14.1
Coimbatore	—	31.8	18.6	Port Blair	—	31.1	26.2
Dehradun	—	27.9	7.2	Puducherry	—	32.0	18.6
Gangtok	—	15.7	9.4	Pune	—	30.9	14.8
Goa	—	33.5	19.6	Raipur	—	32.0	19.0
Guwahati	—	28.0	14.1	Ranchi	—	27.6	15.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.1	7.9
Hyderabad	—	30.6	15.7	Shimla	—	19.3	7.2
Imphal	—	25.7	7.6	Srinagar	—	6.2	1.7
Jaipur	—	24.6	5.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.8	22.1
Kochi	—	30.6	23.2	Tiruchi	—	31.1	19.6
Kohima	—	20.2	7.4	Vijayawada	—	31.6	17.4
Kolkata	—	27.6	17.6	Visakhapatnam	—	31.2	19.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.28	..78	63	 96	...115	
Bengaluru	...4	..23	22	 64	89	
Chennai	.21	..54	41	... 223	...133	
Delhi	.29	114	83	... 283	...233	
Hyderabad	...5	..50	56	... 165	...151	
Kolkata	...6	..21	53	... 203	...145	
Lucknow	.24	..38	60	... 186	...162	
Mumbai	.62	276	82	... 377	...288	
Pune	..—	..22	49	... 343	...218	
Visakhapatnam	...4	..68	29	... 267	...297	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 351 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

YSRCP MP questioned in Vivekananda murder case

For the first time, the CBI questioned Kadapa MP of YSR Congress Party Y.S. Avinash Reddy in the four-year-old murder case of former A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's brother Vivekananda Reddy. The Supreme Court had a few months ago transferred the investigation in the case from the sessions court at Kadapa to the Principal court of CBI at Nampally here on a plea by Vivekananda Reddy's daughter. She had expressed doubts about fair trial in the case as long as it remained in Andhra Pradesh. The interrogation lasted four-and-a-half hours.

SCCL commissions first floating solar power plant

Indian-made solar modules used for the first time on such a scale

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) has commissioned its first floating solar power plant with 5 megawatt capacity taking the total solar power generation capacity of the company to 224 MW at nine locations.

The floating solar power plant has been established with a cost of ₹26 crore (₹5.24 crore per megawatt) on the reservoir waters of the company's 2x600 MW thermal power plant at Pegadapalli in Jaipur mandal of Mancherial district. It was inaugurated by SCCL director (E&M) D. Satyanarayana Rao on Saturday.

A view of the 5 MW floating solar power plant set up by Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. in Mancherial district of Telangana.

Officials stated that the project has used transparent glass-to-glass solar modules, which are rated as more efficient than traditional solar modules. Such modules are first of their kind to be manufactured as part of the Make in India initiative and used at such a scale in India.

The 5 MW plant is estimated to generate 10 million units of energy (about 27,000 units a day) per annum and the profit/savings on energy bills to Singareni would be about ₹3 crore a year. When completed fully with addition of another 5 MW capacity, the 10 MW floating solar plant would generate 20 MU per year with profit/savings of ₹6 crore a year. The ground-based solar power plants were set up at eight locations in Manuguru, Kothagudem, Yellandu, Ramagundam and Mandamarri areas of SCCL.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients intend to purchase the residential property bearing Municipal No.25 (old Site No.71), having PID No.77-93-25 measuring East to West: 70 ft and North to South: 50 ft totally measuring 3500 Sq.ft along with a building thereon situated at Madhavanagar Main Road, Bangalore from its Owner: **Mr.Umesh S Moorthy** S/o Sri.M.Sachidananda Moorthy residing at No.25/34, 1st Floor, Vishwanatha Rao Road, Madhavanagar, Bangalore- 560 001. Mr.Umesh S Moorthy has lost/misplaced the Original Partition Deed dated 25/01/2003, registered as Doc. No. 4462/2002-2003 and stored in CD No.19, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, with respect to aforesaid property.

Mr.Umesh S Moorthy has lodged a Police complaint with Bangalore City Police Station on 27/01/2023, with respect to loss/misplacement of the above said Original Partition Deed dated 25/01/2003, registered as Doc.No.4462/2002-2003. If anyone is holding or otherwise finds the said original Partition Deed dated 25/01/2003, he/she is hereby requested to hand over the same to the undersigned and he/she will be rewarded appropriately.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
(SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 16/01/2023]
CMP No. 538/2021
[VIDEO CONFERENCING/PHYSICAL HEARING]

PETITIONER/S: M/S. VENKATESHA EDUCATION SOCIETY AND ANOTHER
VS.
RESPONDENT/S:
DR. PRASHANTH T.E.
TO,
RESPONDENT
DR. PRASHANTH T.E.
S/o. T.R. Ethiraj
809 35 C cross,
9 Main Jayanagar 4 Block,
Bangalore - 560 011. Karnataka
EMAIL: prashanthte@yahoo.com
RESPONDENT/S

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court **Under Section 11 (6) of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996** as in the copy annexed hereunto.
Emergent Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on **13.02.2023 AT 10:30** A.M in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the **16th Day of January 2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

CCH- 16
IN THE COURT OF XVII ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
P& SC No.:724/2022

Petitioners v/s Respondent NIL
1. Mahalingappa D
2. D.Santosh
3. D.Sandeep
All of the above Petitioners are Residing at No.1212, 7th A Main, 1st 'C' Cross, 2nd Stage, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore 560040

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named has made petition to this court under section 372 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has been held by **Smt. Lakshmi DM** wife of Petitioner No. 1 & mother of Petitioner No.2 & 3 herein who expired on 29.06.2017.
Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 22.02.2023 at time informed to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard & declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel No. 1212, 7th A Main, 1st "C" Cross, 2nd Stage, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, corporation No. 1212/33 with present PID No. 34-103-33, with a built up area of about 4800 square feet, measuring East to West 15.24 metres and North to South 14.3+11.5/2 metres and bounded on the
East by : Road; West by: Property bearing No. 1211; South by: Road; North by: Property bearing No. 1213.

Given under my hand & seal of the court, this 20th Day of Jan 2023
Sd/-
By Order of the Court
City Civil Sessions Court, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that our client **Mr. Vanamamalai Sundararajan,** Son of Mr. Sundararajan P., R/at. Flat No.GB Palmgrove Towers, No.19, Palmgrove Road, Victoria Layout, Viveknagar, Bangalore - 560 047 intend to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule below from Mr. Arpit Saxena Son of Late H.K. Saxena and Late Sarita Saxena, R/at. No. B203, Coevolve Northern Star, Near Vibgyor High School, Sampigahalli Main Road, Chokkanahalli Village, Jakkur Post, Bangalore - 560064 for a valuable Sale Consideration. If any person, entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said property or any part, thereof, such a person submits his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **Seven (7) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there is no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the said property from the owner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted property bearing **Site Nos.3 & 4,** BBMP Katha No.384, 548/437/3-4 (548/437/384), Old Katha No.437, situated **at 1st Cross, "RAINBOW REGENCY",** the approved layout formed out of 39 Guntas of converted lands in Sy.No.29 of Geddalahalli Village, K. Narayanapura Panchayath, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, converted by order bearing No.BDS:ALN:SR (SA)25/2001-02, dated 28-06-2001, of the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, presently comes under the limits of B.B.M.P, Horamavu Ward No.25, measuring East to West 50 feet, and North to South 60 feet, totally measuring 3000 square feet, together with **2000 square feet** residential house constructed thereon, and bounded on:
EAST BY : 26 Feet Road; WEST BY : Private Property; NORTH BY : Site No.2; SOUTH BY : Site No.5;

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CIN No:U41000KA2016SGC097260

NO:EE/VJNL/UBP/D-09/SIRA/TBC-Drip/TND-06/2022-23 **Date:27.01.2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, VJNL, Upper Bhadra Project, Division No.09 Sira, Tumkur, Karnataka. Invites lumpsum / Turnkey tenders on behalf of Managing Director, VJNL, Bengaluru, from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. "Two Cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. The Tenderers are required to submit two separate sealed covers, one containing the Earnest money deposit and the details of their capability to undertake the tender (as detailed in ITT Clause 3 and 6), which will be opened first and the second cover containing the price tender will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract".

Statement showing the details of work invited for tender

SL NO	INDENT NO	Amount put to tender in crores
1	VJNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT2647	190.77
2	VJNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT2646	408.22
3	VJNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT2648	249.71

Calender of Events: 1) The contractor can access to the e-tender document, i,e. the tender schedules, bid documents and other documents, in the website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) from: **28.01.2023 Onwards. 2)** Last Date & Time for Querries/ Clarifications: **30.01.2023 Upto 05.00 PM. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held at the Office of Managing Director, VJNL, Embassy Square, infantry Road Bangalore-560001: **31.01.2023 at 3.00 PM. 4)** The Last date for submission of completed tender documents through e-portal: **06.02.2023 at 5.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid (cover-1) by Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No-07, Hiriyuru, Camp;Chitradurga: **08.02.2023 at 11.00 AM. 6)** Financial Bid will be opened after the approval of technical bid: **10.02.2023 at 05.00 PM.**

Note: Rates quoted shall be exclusive of GST.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
VJNL, UBP Div No.09, Sira, Tumkur,

DIPR/CP/4367/JA/2022-23

Classifieds

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CHAIRMAN

GENERAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is hereby informed that, in the recent past, our company logo, stamp, invoice has been misused for unlawful gain by certain illegal persons and our company's outdated cheques have been forged and misused and appropriate criminal complaints have been given against the delinquent persons. If you come across our company's name, logo, letter heads and cheque please verify with the below mentioned address. The company shall not be liable for any misuse under its disguise for the selling of any products or for any other purpose which is unauthorised and illegal.

A.Arunachalam,
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From Page One

Sea winds erode Sundarbans temple

The archaeologist said that along with the restoration of the structure, the ASI has also planted trees at the site so that they can serve as a barrier to the temple.

The ASI website states that Jatar Deul is traditionally connected to an inscription, no longer traceable, by one Raja Jayantachandra, purported to have been issued in 975 AD. The Archaeological Survey of India website says that the temple is datable to the 10th or 11th century AD on the basis of its architecture.

Sharmila Saha, an expert on West Bengal temples, disagrees with the dating estimate, saying that the temple was more likely to have been built around the beginning of the 13th century based on its architectural features.

However, she agreed that the temple was facing erosion because of air salinity. "The base of the temple has suffered damage because of hydraulic action or air salinity. At the upper level of the temple, these climatic factors will take more time to have an impact," she said.

Dr. Saha who has a Ph.D on the Bishnupur temples of West Bengal, pointed out that an early brick temple at Mandirtala in Sagar Island – not far from Jatar Deul – had been completely destroyed because of the hostile climate.

She explained that stone temples located along the coast – such as the famed Konark temple of Odisha – are less affected by salinity since the porosity of stone is far less than that of brick.

Jatar Deul is the tallest standing temple in the Sundarbans on the bank of the river Moni, said Dr. Saha. "The temple has a curvilinear tower similar to temple architecture of the Nagara order of Odisha temples," she added.

Rahul resumes Bharat Jodo Yatra in J&K

"We are expecting a huge gathering to join the yatra over the next two days and also the function that will be held on January 30 at Srinagar. I shall be grateful if you could personally intervene in this matter and advise the officials concerned to provide adequate security," Mr. Kharge said in a letter to Mr. Shah.

Multiple layer security was put in place in Kashmir on the yatra route on Saturday. "We're giving three-tier protection, and all security arrangements have been made No security lapses happened yesterday [Friday], so many people did a foot march," Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Vijay Kumar said.

Mehbooba joins Yatra

Mr. Gandhi was joined by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, her mother and daughter Iltija Mufti as the walk resumed from Awantipora's Chersoo village in the morning.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also joined her brother in the last leg of the yatra in Kashmir. Ms. Mufti became the third former J&K Chief Minister to join Mr. Gandhi after Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah.

"Rahul Gandhi's yatra comes like a breath of fresh air in Kashmir. It is the first time since 2019 that Kashmiris have come out of their homes in such massive numbers. Was a great experience to walk with him," Ms. Mufti said.

Mr. Gandhi, who was seen engaging children from the Valley during his walk, also offered floral tributes to the 40 CRPF personnel killed in a car bomb blast in Pulwama district in 2019. The yatra will culminate on January 30 in Srinagar.

Pilot killed as two fighter jets crash

Talking to local media, the Superintendent of Police of Morena said the jets had taken off from Gwalior in the morning. He stated that according to the IAF, one aircraft had two pilots, while the other had one.

From the details available and the burning wrecks in Morena and Bharatpur, seasoned fighter pilots opined that it could have been a mid-air collision. They said that it was likely that the Mirage went down immediately, leaving no time for the pilot to react, while the Sukhoi flew a further distance, giving the pilots time to eject safely. "The Su-30MKI pilots tried to gain control but finally ejected over Bharatpur as one of the engines was on fire. [That's] an aerial distance of 70 km," a retired fighter pilot said on Twitter.

The Gwalior air base is home to the IAF's Mirage fleet as well as to the premier training centre Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE).

Air accidents across Services

In a reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha in March 2020, the Defence Ministry said there had been 45 helicopter and aircraft accidents in the three Services in the previous five years, including 12 involving the Army, 29 in the IAF and four involving the Navy. In these, 42 personnel had been killed: seven from the Army, 34 from the IAF and one from the Navy.

In a report tabled in March 2022, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence expressed its concern about such air accidents. The Ministry of Defence replied that the accident rate was the lowest in last 50 years during the 2020-21 financial year.

Opposition asks why LIC and SBI continue to invest in Adani group

Congress leader Randeep Surjewala used publicly available data to show the dip in market capitalisation of govt.-controlled financial institutions because of the falling value of Adani shares and asked why RBI, SEBI, ED, and CBI continue to be 'mute'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders across party lines on Saturday raised concern about the exposure of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India and the State Bank of India (SBI) to the Adani group, and questioned the Narendra Modi government's silence over the issue.

On January 25, a New York-based investor research firm, Hindenburg Research, had accused the Adani group of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud".

Rejecting the charge, the ports-to-power conglomerate said that the allegations against it was "malicious, unsubstantiated, one-sided". The report was timed to spoil the public listing of its shares in the capital markets, the corporate group claimed.

In a pickle: An electronic display featuring news about the Adani Group outside the Bombay Stock Exchange building in Mumbai. AP

In a series of tweets, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Randeep Surjewala used publicly available data to show the dip in market capitalisation of government-controlled financial institutions because of the falling value of Adani shares.

"#LIC is PUBLIC MONEY! Post #HindenburgReport , Value of #LIC investment in Adani Group shares have fallen from ₹77,000 CR [crore] to ₹53,000 CR- loss of ₹23,500 CR. Also, LIC shares have lost ₹22,442 CR Why is LIC still investing ₹300 CR in Adani Group?" Mr. Surjewala asked.

"After #HindenburgReport , SBI share's "market cap" has declined by a whopping ₹ 54,618 CR. Also, Loan Exposure of #SBI and other Banks to Adani Group is ₹ 81,200 CR. QUESTION IS.. Why are SBI Employees Pension Fund & SBI Life still investing ₹225 CR in Adani Group?" he asked in another tweet.

Major loss

The Congress leader asked why the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Enforcement Directorate, the Serious Frauds Investigation Office, the Central Bureau of Investigation and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had remained "mute". "Between Jan. 24 and 27 i.e in 3 days, #SBI & #LIC have lost "market cap" of ₹78,118 CR in value of their shares alone! The Loan Exposure of SBI & Invest Value decline of LIC in Adani Group is in addition thereto," the Congress leader alleged.

Echoing similar concerns, Priyanka Chaturvedi, deputy leader of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction in the Rajya Sabha, tweeted, "LIC saw 22-% dip in its holdings in last two days, its share price fell 3.5% during the day and 5.3% over two days. This is Indian people's hard earned savings which is being pumped in and sucked out. Hope SEBI and RBI are watching & acting".

Trinamool Congress MP Jawhar Sircar tweeted, "I know from 40 years in Govt that LIC's big investments need a nod from FM or PM. Don't know why they're out to destroy an excellent institution that caters to middle class!"

RELATED REPORT
» BUSINESS PAGE

ABVP calls for discussion on foreign varsity campus plan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS, on Saturday said the University Grant Commission (UGC) should hold a comprehensive discussion on the draft norms for setting up Indian campuses of foreign universities.

"There should be comprehensive discussion on the draft for setting up Indian campuses of foreign universities and suggestions of all stakeholders should be seriously considered," ABVP national general secretary Yagyavalkya Shukla said at a meeting of its Central Working Committee in Mysore.

The outfit urged the government to earmark 6% of the GDP for education, of which 2% should go towards higher education and research. It said the Union government should follow a student-centric policy in the NEET-PG exam, 2023.

Same case, two orders: SC leaves it to Madras HC to take corrective measures

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Copy of the order downloaded by petitioner from HC website and certified copy found to vary

The Supreme Court has left it to the Madras High Court to take "necessary course corrective measures in the interest of justice" in a case in which an order pronounced and signed by judges in open court, however, underwent "substantial modifications" later.

The Madras High Court Registrar-General had submitted a report before the top court on the incident.

A Bench led by Justice Ajay Rastogi, after perusing the report, has recently recorded the top court's satisfaction. However, the Bench set aside the order under question and asked the High Court to decide the applications filed in the case afresh.

The top court also agreed to a suggestion by senior advocate K. Subramanian, for the petitioner, to maintain the order of interim status quo passed by the High Court in the case for a period of six weeks.

Mr. Subramanian's case referred to two "different" versions of the same order pronounced by a Division Bench of the High Court on September 1.

He had submitted that the copy downloaded by the petitioner from the High Court website reflected the order pronounced in open court. But the certified copy of the order, issued a few days later, had crucial portions missing. These portions include a direction to the respondent to deposit ₹111.62 crore together with accrued interest in the Indian Overseas Bank, Anna Nagar East branch, Chennai in a fixed deposit.

Moreover, the order of status quo in the website copy had also been modified into an order of interim injunction in the certified copy.

The order came in a case titled *J. Mohammed Nazir versus Mahasemam Trust* and another listed before Justice Rastogi's Bench.

The case stems from allegations of diversion of funds from the public charitable trust to a company and the subsequent alienation of these assets through transfer to a third party, another company.

4 arrested in Chhattisgarh coal levy scam; remanded in ED custody for 3 days

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested four more accused persons in connection with money laundering related to an extortion racket that targeted coal buyers and transporters in Chhattisgarh. The agency has so far attached assets estimated at ₹152.5 crore in the case.

The accused, identified as Deepesh Taunk, Sandeep Kumar Nayak, Shiv Shankar Nag and Rajesh Chaudhary, were produced before a special court that sent them to ED custody for three days.

The ED investigation is based on the findings of the Income Tax Department which had conducted searches at multiple locations in June-July 2022. As alleged, the racket started after the then Geology and Mining Department Director in the State modified the online process of issuing e-permits for transporting coal from mines in July 2020, making it mandatory to get manual no-objection certificate (NOC). More than 30,000 NOCs were issued without following any standard procedure, and there was no clarity on the role of the officials concerned. There were several other irregularities.

Big loot: Each coal buyer or transporter had to pay ₹25 a tonne to the syndicate to get the no-objection certificate, says ED. FILE PHOTO

The ED said each coal buyer or transporter had to pay ₹25 per tonne to the syndicate to get the NOC. "It is estimated that about ₹2 crore-₹3 crore was generated on a daily basis," it had earlier alleged. The cartel is suspected to have collected over ₹500 crore in two years.

Regulate big projects in the Himalayas, demands SJM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), on Saturday said that several "overambitious" projects under execution in the Himalayas of Uttarakhand, were causing irreversible damage to the State and hence, must be stopped.

In a resolution passed during the round-table conference organised by the Manch, the participants maintained that the government should declare the entire Himalayas an "eco-sensitive zone" and ensure there was no further damage to the environment. The conference was headed by Ashwani Mahajan, national co-convener of the SJM.

While demanding that the Himalayas be declared an eco-sensitive zone, the participants of the conference said various rivers originated from the glaciers in Himalayas.

GACs to handle complaints against social media firms from March 1: IT Ministry

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

'Panels are expected to create a culture of responsiveness amongst platforms towards consumers'

The grievance appellate committees (GACs) set up by the government to look into users' complaints against large social media companies such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram will commence operation from March 1, the Ministry of Electronics and IT said on Saturday.

The Centre on Friday notified three GACs under an amendment tothe IT Rules, 2021 notified in October. "Keeping in view the transition period required for the intermediaries as per their requests and technical requirement, the online platform will be operational in one month of this notification of the Grievance Appellate Committee, i.e. from March 1, 2023," an official statement said.

According to the notification, each of the three GACs will have a chairperson, two whole-time members from various government entities and retired senior executives from the industry for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office.

Fully online

"The GAC is a critical piece of overall policy and legal framework to ensure that the Internet in India is open, safe and trusted and accountable. The need for GAC was created due to large numbers of grievances being left unaddressed or unsatisfactorily addressed by Internet Intermediaries. GAC is expected to create a culture of responsiveness amongst all Internet Platforms and Intermediaries towards their consumers," the statement said.

The GAC will be a virtual digital platform that will operate only online and digitally – wherein the entire process, from filing of appeal to the decision thereof, will be conducted digitally.

"Users will have the option to appeal against the decision of the grievance officer of the social media intermediaries and other online intermediaries before this new appellate body. The Committee will endeavour to address the user's appeal within a period of 30 days," the statement added.

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar had said the compliance of rules and laws was not a "pick-and-choose" or "cherry-picking" option for the platforms. He had cautioned that if and when rules are not followed, the "safe harbour protection" that these platforms enjoy falls away.

Women should choose motherhood at 'right age': Himanta

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said women should embrace motherhood at the "appropriate age" between 22 and 30 as it otherwise led to medical complications.

Speaking at a government function here, Mr. Sarma reiterated his government's commitment to stop underage marriages and motherhood.

Child marriage

His comments come against the backdrop of the State government deciding to bring stringent laws and invoking the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to check child marriages and underage motherhood.

"Thousands of husbands will be arrested in the next five-six months as it is a crime to have sexual relations with a girl below 14 years of age, even if he is her legally wed husband," Mr. Sarma said.

Himanta Biswa Sarma

The legal age for the marriage of a woman is 18 and those who marry younger girls will be brought to book.

Speaking about motherhood, Mr. Sarma said, "Women should not wait too long to become mothers as it leads to complications. The appropriate age for motherhood is 22 years to 30 years." Women who have not married yet should do it soon, he added.

An average of 31% of the marriages in the State are in the prohibited age group, he said.

Trinamool lukewarm to arrest of Gokhale

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The arrest of Trinamool Congress spokesperson Saket Gokhale by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has evoked a lukewarm response from his party's leadership.

On earlier occasions when Mr. Gokhale was arrested by the Gujarat Police, the Trinamool leadership had sent a party delegation in support of its spokesperson, with party chairperson Mamata Banerjee describing him as a "nice boy".

However, when Mr. Gokhale was arrested by the ED on charges of money laundering earlier this week, none of the top party leaders reacted to the development. Only the lower rung party leadership have made statements about the misuse of Central agencies in connection with his arrest.

'More serious charges'

"Getting arrested for a tweet targeting PM Modi and money laundering are two different issues. The arrest by Gujarat Police was a clear act of vendetta, but some in the party believe that the charges against Mr. Gokhale are more serious this time," a Trinamool source said.

The ED had arrested Mr. Gokhale on January 24, with its prosecution statement accusing the Trinamool spokesperson of laundering money collected through crowd funding.

BJP to contest in 55 seats in Tripura election, 'old ally' IPFT to fight in five

Union Minister Pratima Bhoumik among 54 candidates announced; party drops four MLAs; junior partner says it has not raised demand for Tipraland State because of the good work done by govt.

Press Trust of India
AGARTALA/NEW DELHI

Dissent boils over: A BJP election office at Chandipur in north Tripura vandalised by party workers who protested against the candidature of Tinku Roy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The BJP has finalised a seat-sharing deal with the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) for the February 16 Assembly election in Tripura, giving the junior partner in the coalition five constituencies, four fewer than what it got in the 2018 election.

Announcing this in Agartala on Saturday, Chief Minister Manik Saha said the BJP would contest in 55 constituencies in its bid to return to power in the northeastern State, which has a 60-member Assembly, for the second time in a row.

In New Delhi, the BJP released, in two instalments, the names of 54 candidates, leaving out the prestigious Agartala constituency, which is being held by the sole Congress MLA, Sudip Roy Barman, who won the seat in a byelection a few months after quitting the saffron party.

The party fielded 11 women, including Union Minister Pratima Bhoumik, and dropped four MLAs.

"Today we have finalised the seat-sharing deal with our old ally IPFT for the next month's Assembly election and gave it five seats. We vowed to fight the election on the basis of the common minimum programme for all-round development of the indigenous people," Mr. Saha said.

The saffron party contested the 2018 Assembly election together with the IPFT, and the alliance partners fielded candidates in 51 and nine seats, respectively.

The BJP-IPFT combine swept to power in the State replacing the 25-year-old Left Front regime, winning 44 seats.

The BJP bagged 36 seats and the IPFT eight.

The CPI(M), which is the major party of the Left Front, is contesting the election in alliance with the Congress this time.

"Today's deal is the testimony of the BJP's tradition of not betraying its allies irrespective of their strength," Mr. Saha said.

Senior IPFT leader Sukla Charan Noatia, who was present at the press meet, said the party will contest in the five seats in association with the BJP.

Mr. Noatia said that for the past five years, the party did not raise the Tipraland State demand because of good works done by the BJP-led governments at the Centre and the State for the indigenous people.

The IPFT had demanded formation of a separate State carving out the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) from Tripura. The TTAADC area is two-thirds of the State territory, and is home to tribals, who constitute one-third of Tripura's population.

Out of the eight IPFT MLAs, at present the party has only four as three parted ways and joined Tipra Motha, another political party. The fourth, party supremo N.C. Debbarma, died on January 1.

Post Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress focus will be on building Team Kharge

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

K.C. Venugopal and Mallikarjun Kharge

As the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) wraps up on Monday, the next big focus for the Congress will be to formalise a team for its newly elected party chief, Mallikarjun Kharge, at the plenary next month.

However, with former party chief Rahul Gandhi being subtly projected as the party's chief campaigner through its ongoing *haath se haath jodo abhiyaan* (joining hands campaign), the new team will have to play an important role in being a bridge between the party's top leadership and the Gandhis.

Venugopal's role

The incumbent general secretary in-charge of organisations, K.C. Venugopal, performs that role right now. He is not only closely identified with Mr. Gandhi but also enjoys the confidence of Sonia Gandhi as well as Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The 59-year-old leader has walked over 3,000 km in the yatra and has been closely involved in its planning.

From logistics to liaising with government authorities on issues such as Mr. Gandhi's security detail, Mr. Venugopal has played a key role in successfully implementing strategy during the yatra.

Just before the yatra was to enter into Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Congress general secretary held extensive consultations with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to ensure security.

On Friday, when there was a reported security breach at J&K's Kulgam, he posted a video of it on social media and demanded a reply from the authorities on the lapse.

Meanwhile, Mr. Venugopal was also involved in other organisational work like the party's presidential elections in October last year and firefight the power tussle in Rajasthan. While he is considered to be most suited to play such a role, even after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) is reconstituted, a rule adopted in the Udaipur Chintan Shivir that said an office-bearer will have a maximum tenure of five years and can't be immediately given a second term may prove to be a hurdle.

The counter-argument is that though the Udaipur Declaration also talked about adopting the "one person-one post" principle, Mr. Kharge continues to function as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha even after being elected as Congress chief.

"Let's wait until the Congress Plenary. Things would get clearer by then," said a senior functionary of the All India Congress Committee. The plenary, to be held between February 24 and 26 in Raipur, will endorse Mr. Kharge's election as the party president as well as pave the way for election to the CWC, the party's highest decision-making body.

With a non-Gandhi at the helm after more than two decades, the new CWC will not only have to play a crucial role in reviving the party's political fortunes but also ensure continuity of decisions taken under the Gandhis.

On the draw

Congress has to be the fulcrum of any electoral alliance for 2024, says Jairam

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/ NEW DELHI

The concluding event of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on Monday is not a "coalition-building exercise", the Congress said on Saturday, though underlining that no meaningful Opposition alliance can be formed without the Congress being the fulcrum.

Speaking at a press conference in Srinagar, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Let me make it absolutely clear, the function on [January] 30th is not a coalition-building exercise. It was an invitation extended in good faith to like-minded political parties, who, we believe, oppose the policies and programmes of the BJP. It is not to build a platform for 2024."

Mr. Ramesh was responding to a question on several Opposition parties turning down the invitation from party president Mallikarjun Kharge to participate in the closing event of the yatra. "I don't see the absence of anybody who has been invited as a setback. They may have other preoccupation," he said.

Mr. Ramesh cited Janata Dal(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh's letter, which, while extending support to the yatra, expressed his inability to join the concluding event, saying that he

Jairam Ramesh

was preoccupied with campaigning for the upcoming Assembly election in Nagaland.

Janata Dal(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister Deve Gowda too sent a similar missive to former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the yatra. There is no official word from the Samajwadi Party and the Trinamool Congress, though, sources said, that they too are unlikely to send any representatives.

Even the Rashtriya Janata Dal, an ally of the Congress, has so far not made up its mind about participating in the Srinagar event. The Communist Party of India (Marxist), which has its central committee meeting in Kolkata coinciding with the event, is also likely to give it a miss. The only public confirmations so far on attendance have come from the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party. Mr. Kharge had extended invitation to 23 parties.

'Ideological battle'

"Any Opposition platform to defeat the BJP must be based on two realities – Congress must be the pivot or fulcrum of any Opposition alliance. Without the Congress, no Opposition alliance is relevant or meaningful. Second, any Opposition alliance must be based on positive and constructive agenda not just anti-BJPism," Mr. Ramesh said.

He stressed that the Bharat Jodo Yatra was an ideological battle and it was not the yatra's business to discuss electoral alliances.

World looking at India with high expectations, says Modi at a gathering of Gujjars

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the world was looking at India with high expectations and the country had asserted itself at the global forums with strength and power. The "new India" was also correcting the mistakes committed in the past, Mr. Modi said.

The PM was addressing a function marking the birth anniversary of Lord Devnarayan, a deity revered by Gujjars, at Maladeseri Dungri village in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan.

"Several attempts were made [earlier] to break India ideologically but no power could succeed in it. Our nation is not just a territory... It is an expression of our civilisation, culture and potential," Mr. Modi said. He called upon the people to stay away from anything which could destroy the unity of the country.

The PM pointed out that BJP's election symbol, lotus, had a religious significance for the community

The PM praised the contribution of the Gujjar community in the freedom struggle and other social movements, while affirming that the personalities who had made sacrifices should get their rightful place in history.

The Gujjar influence

A day before the birth anniversary celebrations, the Congress government here declared it a public holiday in an attempt to entice Gujjars, who wield a strong influence in 35 to 40 of the State's 200 Assembly constituencies. This had been a popular demand of the community for several years.

Meanwhile, Mr. Modi sought to connect the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with Gujjars by pointing out that the party's election symbol, lotus, had a religious significance for the community.

"Lord Devnarayan manifested himself on a lotus, which is also the logo of India's Presidency of the G-20. I too have been associated with lotus," he said.

"My relation with you runs deep. I have come to this function as a devotee rather than as Prime Minister," Mr. Modi said, as the audience clapped and raised slogans in his support.

He called upon the people to get out of the "mindset of slavery" and take pride in the country's heritage that dated back thousands of years.

Akhilesh faces stir by outfits over Maurya's remarks

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav was shown black flags by Hindu right-wing groups during his visit to the Maa Pitambara 108 Mahayaga in Daliganj here on Saturday, in protest against SP leader Swami Prasad Maurya's statement on *Ramcharitmanas*.

An upset Mr. Yadav alleged that the ruling BJP considers Dalits and Backward Castes as *Shudras* (untouchable). On the day, Mr. Maurya met Mr. Yadav at the party headquarters where he was asked to take forward the issue of caste census. The SP has been demanding for a caste-based census in U.P.

'Need mechanism for citizens to directly petition Parliament'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said it will hear on February 17 a petition to evolve a mechanism for citizens to directly move Parliament and seek initiation of deliberations on issues highlighted by them.

A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna asked petitioner Karan Garg to serve a copy of his plea to the lawyer for the Union government.

The plea has sought a declaration that it is the fundamental right of citizens under Articles 14, 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution to directly petition Parliament to seek initiation of a debate, discussion and deliberation on the issues highlighted by them in their petitions.

The petitioner said as an ordinary citizen of the country, he felt "disempowered" when it came to participation in the democratic process as after people cast their votes to elect representatives, there was no scope for any further participation.

"The absence of this mechanism creates a void between elected representatives and the citizens. The people are disconnected from the law-making process. This distancing of the citizens to their inherent rights to fully participate in Indian democracy is a matter of grave concern and is an issue which needs to be immediately addressed," the plea said.

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT TO SHOW CAUSE
(SCR, Order XXII)
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) No.4491 OF 2020

JOINT SECRETARY (COFEPOSA) AND OTHERS ....Petitioner(s) / Appellant(s)

VERSUS

KUMUTHAMALAR RAMACHANDRAN ....Respondent(s)

To,

1.KUMUTHAMALAR RAMACHANDRAN
D/O RAMACHANDRAN RAJOO KRISHNASAMY
BLOCK -A, 3RD FLOOR, FLAT NO.4,
SILVER PARK APARTMENT,
THANIKACHALAM ROAD (OPP HINDI
PARCHAR SABHA), T.NAGAR, CHENNAI-600 017. TAMILNADU

PID: 4222/2023 FOR R(1) IN SLP(CRL) NO.4491/2020 (SEC II-C)

Whereas the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) above-mentioned filed in the Registry by **Mr.MUKESH KUMAR MARORIA**, advocate on-record, on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named, was listed for hearing before the Court on 21st January, 2021 and the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Application for exemption from filing c/c of the impugned judgement is allowed.

On hearing learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the petitioners, we are of the view that prima facie there may be some doubt on the impugned order. We have, however, put to the learned ASG that the respondent has been out of custody now for the last one year and whether there has been any propensity to carry on the same infraction has been noticed. That appears to be not so. His however submission is that the Impugned order would not be sustainable and, if sustained, would have consequences regarding other actions to be taken by the petitioners against the respondent.

Issue notice confined to the aforesaid aspect."

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above matter(s) will be posted for hearing before the Court in due course when you may appear before this Court either in person or through an advocate-on-record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within thirty days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why special leave and interim relief, as prayed for, be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file yout affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule VI of Order XXII, SCR 2013, within thirty days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than two weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out In the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court against whose order the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance, as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 07th January, 2023

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

INBRIEF

Five killed in fire at private nursing home in Jharkhand

At least five people, including two doctors, were killed in a fire in a nursing home in Jharkhand's Dhanbad on Saturday, an official said. The deceased include the medical establishment's owner Dr. Vikas Hazra, his wife Dr. Prema Hazra, the owner's nephew Sohan Khamari and domestic help Tara Devi. The fifth person is yet to be identified and the cause of the fire is yet to ascertained. Chief Minister Hemant Soren condoled the death of the doctor couple and others. Health Minister Banna Gupta expressed his grief over and directed the Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner to take necessary action over the incident. PTI

Convict in Batla House encounter dies of pancreatitis

A convict serving life sentence in the Batla House encounter, in which inspector Mohand Chand Sharma was killed, died on Saturday morning at the All India Institute for Medical Sciences, where he was undergoing treatment for pancreatitis, officials said. A resident of Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, Shehzad Ahmed, 33, was admitted to GTB Hospital on December 8, for diagnosis of gallbladder stone-induced acute necrotising pancreatitis with modified CTSI and referred to Safdarjung hospital on December 27, an official said. He was referred to the AIIMS on January 11. On Saturday, the institute authorities said Ahmed died at 7.42 a.m. PTI

UNGA president's three-day India visit begins today

Csaba Korosi, President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), will arrive in India on a three-day visit on Sunday, during which he is expected to discuss with his Indian interlocutors, ways to deal with various challenges facing the globe. It will be Mr. Korosi's first bilateral visit to any country since he assumed the UNGA Presidency in September 2022, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, announcing his trip. Mr. Korosi is scheduled to witness the Beating Retreat ceremony at the historic Vijay Chowk. He will hold talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on key multilateral and regional issues.

GRSE signs MoU to make Rolls-Royce marine engines

The Kolkata-based public sector shipyard, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd., has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rolls-Royce Solutions of Germany to locally manufacture the latter's marine diesel engines. "Under the agreement, GRSE and Rolls-Royce Solutions will cooperate in the licence production and localisation of the technologically advanced MTU S4000 marine engines. These engines, with a power output of 746-4300 kW, are compact, reliable and easy to maintain," the GRSE said. They are used for Fast Patrol Vessels, Interceptor Boats and Fast Attack Crafts built by the GRSE and other shipyards.

SUDOKU

8			2			4		
	2			4				6
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3				8			7	
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS5693 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	4	2	8	7	9	5	3
9	3	2	1	4	5	6	7	8
5	8	7	3	9	6	4	2	1
3	5	6	9	1	8	7	4	2
8	2	1	7	5	4	3	9	6
7	4	9	6	3	2	8	1	5
6	1	3	4	2	9	5	8	7
4	7	5	8	6	1	2	3	9
2	9	8	5	7	3	1	6	4

Noble's Helen: Arunachal yields India's newest butterfly

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A swallowtail butterfly disappearing from its previously known ranges from Myanmar and southern China to Vietnam has been recorded for the first time in India.

Three butterfly enthusiasts – Atanu Bose, Loren Sonowal and Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi – recorded the "extremely rare" Noble's Helen (*Papilio noblei*) from three locations in the Namdapha National Park of Arunachal Pradesh in the year to September 2021.

Spotted: The new swallowtail butterfly is characterised by a large dorsal white spot. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Their report was published in the latest edition of the *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies*.

The Noble's Helen, closest to *Papilio antonio* from the Philippines and characterised by a large dorsal white spot, was once common in the montane forest at moderate elevations in northern Thailand. This species of swallowtail butterfly has also been reported from the Myanmar, Yunnan and Hubai regions of China, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. "The species has not disappeared from Thailand but is now known to be very rare in the ranges it was previously recorded. The recording of Noble's Helen for the first time in India is encouraging for nature lovers," Mr. Bose told *The Hindu*.

Butterflies are considered vital indicators of the state of biodiversity and key ecosystem functions.

The trio of Mr. Bose, Mr. Sonowal and Mr. Gogoi photographed Noble's Helen live from 19th Mile, Lunkai Nala, and near Deban Camp within the 1,985-sq.km Namdapha, also India's easternmost tiger reserve.

The locations are approximately 80 km aerially from Putao of Myanmar's Kachin State, where this species of swallowtail butterfly was last recorded in April 1999.

Mr. Sonowal said Noble's Helen with a wingspan of 100-120 mm was initially thought to be an aberration of *Papilio helenus*, though the former has an extra white spot in the dorsum of the forewing. A closer study showed *Papilio noblei* sports a consistent white spot and has a complete row of red lunules on the underside of the hind wing and discal white areas on the upper side.

SC presses need for reform on tedious bail processes

Judge says that unless the government thinks 'out of the box' and refrains from fighting every case of bail, it could take the top court 300 to 700 years to dispose of the current backlog

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has been reaching out to the government to "think out of the box" and not fight every case of bail all the way up to the top court.

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, the second seniormost judge in the top court, has been vocal about his concern of how almost every case of bail is being challenged all the way to the Supreme Court, forming more than one-third of the cases in the Supreme Court.

At a recent conference in Varanasi, Justice Kaul said the inflow of bail and remission cases to the Supreme Court was so high that "some kind of revolution" or "out-of-the-box thinking" would be required on the part of the government to change things. If not, these cases, in the normal course, could only be disposed of by courts – already struggling with a heavy backlog – in another 300 to 700 years.

> Is it that we are thinking that we cannot convict them [those under trial], so let's punish them by keeping them in prison during that period of time?
>
> JUSTICE SANJAY KISHAN KAUL

"We have a huge undertrial population... Is it that we are thinking that we cannot convict them, so let's punish them by keeping them in prison during that period of time? This seems unfortunately a philosophy which permeates. Somewhere this philosophy must be jettisoned... Leave aside murder or extremely heinous cases, I have not understood the purpose of custodial interrogation beyond the period of chargesheet being filed," Justice Kaul said.

On January 17, a Bench led by Justice Kaul said the court did not "believe in unnecessarily keeping people behind the bars" while hearing a challenge by Delhi Police against the bail granted to activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha in a case connected to the 2020 Delhi riots.

Pending cases

Last December, Justice Kaul pointed out how bail applications were being argued at length in the Supreme Court as if they were appeals against conviction.

Justice Kaul's comments come a couple of months after the Supreme Court decided to give priority to pending bail petitions by having every Bench of the court hear 10 bail cases every day before normal work.

Individual liberty

In July last year, a Supreme Court judgment had urged the government to bring a new Act exclusively to simplify and streamline bails. The court had observed how the mindset of investigating agencies leaned more towards the draconian power of arrest rather than the protection of individual liberty.

"Jails in India are flooded with undertrial prisoners. The statistics placed before us would indicate that more than two-thirds of the inmates of the prisons constitute undertrial prisoners. Of this category of prisoners, majority may not even be required to be arrested," Justice M.M. Sundresh, who authored the judgment, had observed.

"In a democracy, there can never be an impression that it is a Police State," the judgment said.

TISS students bypass screening 'ban' to watch film on Modi

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Students who had gathered for a public screening on campus watched the BBC film on their devices

Over 200 students of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on Saturday gathered to watch the BBC documentary *India: The Modi Question*. While there was no public screening, the students were handed out QR codes allowing them access to the film, which they then watched on their laptops, mobile phones and tabs.

In response, the BJP Yuva Morcha staged a massive protest outside the campus.

On Friday, the administration of TISS issued a circular asking students to refrain from any such activity that "may disturb the academic environment and jeopardise the peace and harmony on the campus".

"Any action by students against the advisory will be dealt with strictly as per the rules. We advise all students to refrain from engaging in any such activities in contravention to this advisory," the circular read.

While the Progressive Students' Forum (PSF) condemned the decision and announced the screening for the next day, they had to resort to makeshift arrangements for individual viewing.

Earlier on Saturday, BJP's Mumbai chief and MLA Ashish Shelar sought police action against TISS students who were planning to screen the film on campus. "I urge the police to act or else we will have to step in," he said.

Mr. Shelar, also the treasurer of the BCCI, had said that it was a bogus documentary. "Whoever is determined to show it in public is escalating tensions, which will lead to a law and order situation."

The institute should stop the students from screening the documentary, he had demanded.

Banjaras divided as RSS holds event to 'bring them into Sanatan Dharma fold'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In a bid to bring the Banjaras firmly into the Hindu fold, an organisation supported by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has been hosting a five-day gathering of the nomadic community in Maharashtra from January 25. However, the community seems to have divided opinions on its own religious heritage and identity, with some members sceptical about the political motives of the event's organisers.

The Dharam Jagran Manch, an RSS-linked outfit, along with other Hindu organisations, kick-started the congregation of Banjaras at Godri village in Jalgaon.

The event, called the Akhil Bhartiya Hindu Gaur Banjara and Labhana Naikada Kumbh, aims to bring the community – traditionally nomadic pastoralists and traders – into the Sanatan Dharma fold. They are currently classified under the Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe categories in different States.

This is the first major RSS event engaging the community and is expected to witness a footfall of one million people. Participating leaders include Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy, Devendra Fadnavis, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, and RSS leader Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi.

Big reach: The first major RSS event engaging the community is expected to witness a footfall of one million. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

During the inauguration, Jitendra 'Maharaj', a religious leader of the Banjara community, urged participants to stay away from organisations such as the BAMCEF (All India Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation), which he said were creating differences among people in Hindu society. "The Gor Banjara community is an inseparable part of the Hindu religion and we are all Sanatan Dharmi," he added.

'Political motivations'

However, the event is also drawing criticism from a section of Banjara leaders who claim that the Kumbh is a concept alien to the community, and allege that this was being done to force Hinduism on them. They are protesting against the event, online and offline.

Mohan Singh Chavhan, a retired Professor of electronics engineering from Nagpur, and national president of Bhartiya Banjara Samaj Karmachari Seva Sanstha that is associated with the uplift of the community, said the Kumbh for Banjaras is part of the outreach planned by RSS to help the BJP. "They are organising the Kumbh, which doesn't exist in our customs, in preparation for the Assembly elections in Karnataka, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. These States have a significant population of Banjaras," he said.

The section that supports the Kumbh spoke in favour of aligning with Hinduism. "All of us must write our religion as Hindu in the census," urged Vinayakrao Deshpande, a Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader.

With drones soaring over music, Beating Retreat will be a feast for the senses

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Tunes based on Indian classical music will be the flavour of the Beating Retreat ceremony here on Sunday, officials said on Saturday. As a feast for the eyes, there will be the country's "biggest drone show" comprising 3,500 indigenous drones.

For the first time, a 3-D anamorphic projection will be made on the facade of North Block and South Block during the grand event at Vijay Chowk on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The Beating Retreat ceremony marks the formal end of the Republic Day celebrations. It will be graced by President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the armed forces.

"As many as 29 captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes will be played by the music bands of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the State Police and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)," the statement said. The ceremony will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The magnificent drone show will light up the evening sky over the Raisina Hill, weaving myriad forms of national figures, events through smooth synchronisation," it said.

Setting the stage: A light show during the full-dress rehearsal for the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi. PTI

Song playlist

The ceremony will begin with the massed band's *Agniveer* tune, which will be followed by enthralling numbers such as *Almora*, *Kedar Nath*, *Sangam Dur*, *Queen of Satpura*, *Bhagirathi* and *Konkan Sundari* by pipes and drums band, the Defence Ministry statement said.

The Indian Air Force's band will play *Aprajey Arjun*, *Charkha*, *Vayu Shakti and Swadeshi*, while *Ekla Cholo Re*, *Hum Taiyyar Hai*, and *Jai Bharati* will be played by the band of the Indian Navy.

The Indian Army's band will play *Shankhnaad*, *Sher-e-Jawan*, *Bhupal*, *Agranee Bharat*, *Young India*, *Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja*, *Drummers Call*, and *Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*, it said.

The event will come to a close with the ever-popular tune *Sare Jahan se Accha*.

The principal conductor of the ceremony will be Flight Lieutenant Leimapokpam Rupachandra Singh. While the Army Band will be led by Subedar Major Diggar Singh, the Naval and Air Force band commanders will be M. Anthoni Raj and Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar, respectively. The conductor of the State Police and CAPF bands will be Assistant Sub-Inspector Prem Singh, it said.

The buglers will perform under the leadership of Naib Subedar Santosh Kumar Pandey, and pipes and drums band will play under the instructions of Subedar Major Baswaraj Vagge.

The august ceremony has emerged as an event of national pride when the Colours and Standards are paraded.

KABUL

166 killed as a result of cold snap in Afghanistan since January 10

AFP

At least 166 died in a wave of cold weather sweeping Afghanistan as extreme conditions heaped misery on the poverty-stricken nation. Afghanistan has been frozen by temperatures as low as -33 degrees Celsius since January 10, combined with widespread snowfall, icy gales and regular electricity outages. AFP

WELLINGTON

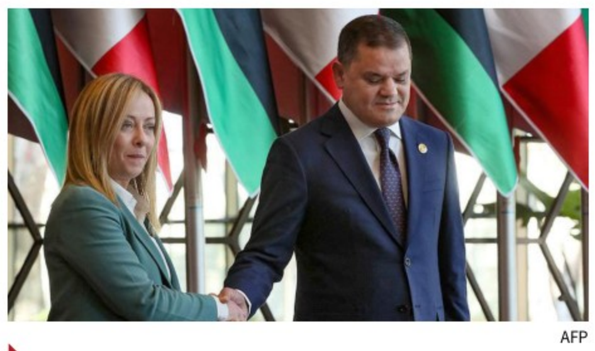
Three dead, one missing as rain pounds New Zealand's largest city

AP

Authorities said on Saturday that three persons had died and at least one was missing after record levels of rainfall pounded New Zealand's largest city, causing widespread disruption. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins flew to Auckland on a military plane after a state of emergency was declared in the region. AP

TRIPOLI

Italy Prime Minister Meloni in Libya to discuss energy, migration



AFP

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni arrived on Saturday in the Libyan capital Tripoli for talks on energy as well as the thorny issue of migration. Libya and its former colonial power Italy are key trade partners, particularly in energy, where Italian giant Eni plays a major role in tapping into Africa's largest known oil reserves. AFP

PRAGUE

Former Army officer Petr Pavel elected Czech Republic President

AP

Retired General Petr Pavel won the Czech presidential election on Saturday. He is a war hero with a passion for motorcycles. Mr. Pavel beat billionaire former Prime Minister Andrej Babis to become the Czech Republic's fourth President since independence in 1993. He has vowed to "restore order" in the country of 10.5 million. AFP

Palestinian gunman kills 7 near Jerusalem synagogue

Attacker shot dead; the strike comes a day after an Israeli military raid killed nine persons in the West Bank; it casts a shadow over U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Israel today

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

A Palestinian gunman opened fire outside an east Jerusalem synagogue on Friday night, killing seven persons, including a 70-year-old woman, and wounding three others before he was shot and killed by the police, officials said. It was the deadliest attack on Israelis in years and raised the likelihood of more bloodshed.

The attack, which occurred as residents were observing the Jewish sabbath, came a day after an Israeli military raid killed nine persons in the West Bank.

The shooting set off celebrations in both the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where people fired guns into the air, honked horns and distributed sweets.

Tall cost: Officers carry a body after a shooting attack near a synagogue in Jerusalem on Friday. AP

The burst of violence, which also included a rocket barrage from Gaza and retaliatory Israeli airstrikes, has posed an early challenge for Israel's new government, which is dominated by ultranationalists who have pushed for a hard line against Palestinian violence. It also cast a cloud over a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to the region on Sunday.

Addressing reporters at Israel's national police headquarters, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had held a security assessment and decided on "immediate actions." He said he would convene his Security Cabinet on Saturday night, after the end of the sabbath, to discuss a further response.

Mr. Netanyahu declined to elaborate but said Israel would act with "determination and composure." He called on the public not to take the law into their own hands.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the U.S. strongly condemned the attack and was "shocked and saddened by the loss of life," noting it came on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Israeli police said the shootings occurred in Neve Yaakov, a neighbourhood with a large ultra-Orthodox population, and that the gunman fled in a car. The police said they chased after him and after an exchange of fire, killed him.

New shooting

In a separate incident, a 13-year-old Palestinian opened fire in east Jerusalem on Saturday, wounding two Israelis. The shooting in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan in east Jerusalem, near the historic Old City, wounded a father and son, aged 47 and 23.

New Delhi condemns Jerusalem attack

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Saturday condemned the terror attack in Israel, where a Palestinian gunman opened fire outside a synagogue in East Jerusalem on Friday night, killing seven. "We strongly condemn last night's terror attack in Jerusalem. We extend heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wish the injured a speedy recovery," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Thanking India for its statement, Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon said the embassy was "humbled by the wide support from India following the terror attack in Jerusalem on Jews going to synagogue on Shabbat".

Anger in U.S. after video surfaces of police beating black man who died later

Agence France-Presse
MEMPHIS

About 50 protesters gathered on Friday night in Memphis, in the southern U.S., demanding justice after a video was released showing police violently arresting Tyre Nichols, a young Black man who died a few days after the incident.

Waving signs reading "Justice for Tyre" and "End police terror," they headed to Martyrs Park.

Five police officers have been charged with second-degree murder in the beating of the 29-year-old, who died in a Memphis hospital on January 10 three days after being stopped on suspicion of reckless driving.

At 6:00 p.m. on Friday, (0530 IMT Saturday), the few dozen protesters, chanting "No justice, no peace," managed to block a major road in the city, causing traffic jams.

The procession carried on to a bridge crossing the Mississippi River.

Monica Johnson, a community organiser from Atlanta, said it was "sick" that all the accused policemen were also Black, an anomaly among recent high-profile killings of Black men, which often involve white officers.

"For me there is no good cop," said LJ Abraham, a community organiser in Memphis.

Wrath of the public: A protestor steps on the windshield of a police vehicle in New York on Friday. REUTERS

'Sri Lanka's economy could shrink by 3.5% to 4%'

Reuters
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's economy could contract by -3.5 or -4.0% in 2023 after shrinking -11% last year, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Saturday.

"From 2024, we will take this economy to positive growth. We are creating a strong country that does not bow down to anyone and is debt-free," he said.

Speaking at a religious event, he said: "The growth rate of the economy in 2022 was -11% and could be -3.5 or -4.0% this year."

If economic programs which includes difficult changes in policy such as higher taxes, cuts in public expenditure and debt restructuring were not implemented then Sri Lanka could witness further political unrest, he said.

"No one can prevent the country from falling into crisis again similar to May and June last year," Mr. Wickremesinghe said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Wickremesinghe suspended Parliament until February 8, when he said he would announce a new set of long-term policies to address a range of issues including an unprecedented economic crisis.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe issued an extraordinary decree suspending Parliament from midnight Friday.

(With AP inputs)

14 killed in Ukraine attack on Lugansk hospital, says Russia

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Ministry on Saturday accused the Ukrainian Army of striking a hospital in the eastern Lugansk region, leaving 14 dead and injuring 24 others.

On Saturday morning in the town of Novoaidar, "the Ukrainian armed forces deliberately attacked the building of a district hospital with rockets of a U.S.-made HIMARS multiple launch rocket system," the Ministry said. It said that 14 were killed and 24 wounded.

Meanwhile, three persons were killed and at least two others wounded following a Russian strike on the city of Konstantynivka in eastern Ukraine, the local governor said on Saturday. "The Russians fired at a residential neighbourhood," Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said on social media. "Three civilians were killed. At least two were wounded," he added.

Three persons dead, four injured in latest California shooting

Associated Press
LOS ANGELES

Three persons were killed and four injured in a shooting at a short-term rental home in California area early on Saturday morning, the police said.

The shooting occurred about 2.30 a.m. in Beverly Crest, an upscale Los Angeles neighborhood.

Sgt. Frank Preciado of the Los Angeles Police Department said earlier on Saturday that the three persons who were killed were inside a vehicle.

Two of the four other victims were taken in private vehicles to area hospitals and two others were transported by ambulance, police spokesperson Sgt. Bruce Borihanh said.

Two were in critical condition and two were in stable condition, Mr. Borihanh said.

Investigators were trying to determine if there was a party at the rental home or what type of gathering was occurring, Borihanh said.

Mr. Borihanh said police have no information on suspects.

This is the fourth mass shooting in California this month.

Rs. 2 trillion breach in Pak. budgetary estimates: IMF

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Ahead of its crucial talks with the cash-strapped Pakistan government, the IMF has found an over Rs. 2,000-billion breach in budgetary estimates for 2022-23 in its initial assessment that might result in escalating the Budget deficit and primary deficit targets with a massive margin.

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials are scheduled to kick-start parleys from Tuesday for accomplishing the ninth review under the Extended Fund Facility during which the fiscal slippages and reconciliation of figures will be the major topic of discussion. The review would lead to the release of the next tranche of funds to Pakistan.

According to sources quoted by *The News*, the IMF is currently asking Pakistani authorities to take additional taxation measures worth Rs. 600 billion through a mini-budget.

The sources told the newspaper that Pakistani authorities did not agree to it at all and argued that the primary deficit would not escalate up to such an extent at all.

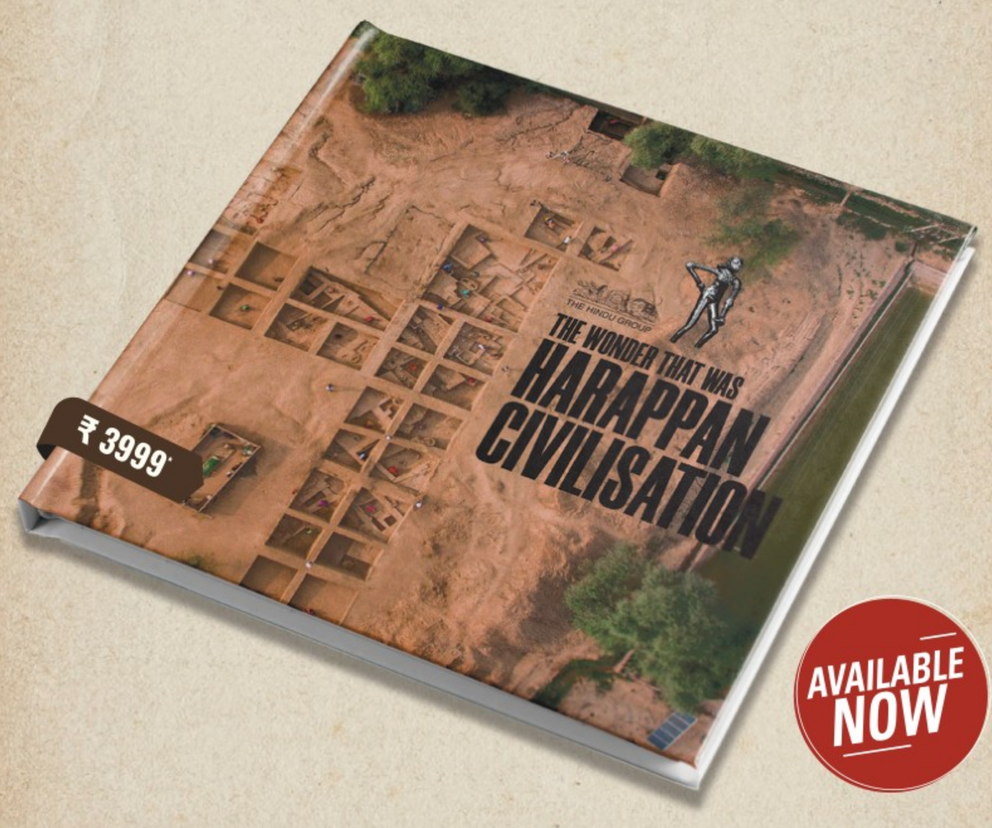
The IMF has identified a breach worth Rs 2 trillion in budgetary estimates for the fiscal year 2022-23, warning that the primary and budget deficits could escalate with a massive margin, the report added.

NEW ARRIVAL

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Group celebrates the centenary of the Indus Civilisation's discovery in 1924 and the Mohenjo-daro excavation (1922-23), and inscribing Dholavira as a World Heritage Site in 2021 with this rich coffee-table book.



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90 fossil nests belonging to India's largest dinosaurs uncovered

Press Trust of India

Researchers have uncovered 92 nesting sites containing a total of 256 fossil eggs in central India's Narmada Valley belonging to titanosaurs, which were among the largest dinosaurs to have ever lived.

The finding, published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, reveals intimate details about the lives of titanosaurs in the Indian subcontinent.

The Lameta Formation, located in the Narmada Valley, is well-known for fossils of dinosaur skeletons and eggs of the Late Cretaceous Period that lasted from about 145 to 66 million years ago, the researchers said.

Detailed examination of these nests allowed researchers at the University of Delhi, New Delhi and colleagues to make inferences about the life habits of these dinosaurs.

Diverse titanosaurs

They identified six different egg species, suggesting a higher diversity of titanosaurs than what is represented by the skeletal remains from this region.

Based on the layout of the nests, the team inferred that these dinosaurs buried their eggs in shallow pits like modern-day crocodiles.

Certain pathologies found in the eggs, such as a rare case of "egg-in-egg", indicate that titanosaur sauropods had a reproductive physiology that parallels that of birds and possibly laid their eggs in a sequential manner as seen in modern birds.

The presence of many nests in the same area suggests that these dinosaurs exhibited colonial nesting behaviour like modern birds.

On their own

However, the close spacing of the nests left little room for adult dinosaurs, supporting the idea that adults left the hatchlings (newborns) to fend for themselves.

These fossil nests provide a wealth of data about some of the largest dinosaurs in history, and they come from a time shortly before the age of dinosaurs came to an end, the researchers said.

The findings contribute significantly to paleontologists' understanding of how dinosaurs lived and evolved, they added.

Breast cancer: more insights on how hormonal therapy works

Progesterone treatment prior to breast cancer surgery is quite likely to increase the survival rate of patients

R. Prasad

Work carried out by researchers from the Integrated Cancer Genomics Laboratory at the Advanced Centre for Training, Research, and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) in Mumbai's Tata Memorial Centre has shed more light on the molecular mechanism through which progesterone treatment prior to breast cancer surgery is quite likely to increase the survival rates of patients.

In 2018, a team led by Dr. Amit Dutt at the ACTREC found through in vitro studies that when breast cancer cell lines were treated with progesterone, two genes – SGK1 and NDRG1 – were produced in excess amount (overexpressed). They also found that the expression of a few microRNAs was reduced (down-regulated) in response to the hormone treatment. Two particular microRNAs that were down regulated were found to also regulate the expression of the SGK1 gene.

Increased survival rate

Since the normal function of the two microRNAs is to reduce the amount of SGK1 enzyme produced, when the level of microRNAs drops, the amount of SGK1 enzyme produced increases. Through the action of SGK1 and two other genes, and the two microRNAs, the ability of the breast cancer cells to migrate and invade is reduced, thus increasing the survival rates of patients undergoing hormone therapy prior to surgery.

In a recently published study in the journal, *Breast Cancer Research*, the team led by Neelima Yadav in Dr. Dutt's lab expanded the scope of their previous work to focus on the role of non-coding genes; non-coding genes do not produce any proteins but regulate the expression of other genes. The work was to uncover the molecular mechanism of any non-coding gene in providing therapeutic advantage of progesterone on breast cancer cells.

The study found that treatment of breast cancer cells with progesterone results in a down-regulation of a long non-coding linc RNA known as the Down Syndrome Cell Adhesion Molecule (DSCAM-AS1).

"As with progesterone therapy, we found that with silencing of DSCAM-AS1 expression, the ability of breast cancer cells to invade and migrate is slowed down," Ms. Yadav says.

In breast cancer patients, the amount of DSCAM-AS1 present is elevated. The team also found that DSCAM-AS1 behaves like a sponge and depletes the availability of another non-coding microRNA called the miR-130a. And the level of estrogen receptor in breast cancer cells is increased, which serves as an indicator to begin hormonal therapy.

High level of microRNA

But when progesterone is provided from externally, the amount of DSCAM-AS1 that is available reduces, and thereby the sponging effect of DSCAM-AS1 also sees a dip. This results in elevated levels of the microRNA (miR-130a) that are freely available. As the level of the microRNA increases, there is more of them binding to the estrogen receptor. "The study threw a surprise. We found that miR-130a is known to regulate the level of estrogen receptor in breast cancer cells," says Dr. Dutt.

Dr. Dutt says the detection of DSCAM-1in blood or tumour tissue can likely provide information about the aggressiveness of breast cancer and prognosis.

"Non-coding RNA-based diagnostic and screening methods are still in the early stages of development. We need further validation before using it in clinical practice," he says.

"Our study identifies a three-tiered regulatory network wherein DSCAM-AS1 sponges off miR-130a to downregulate estrogen receptor expression in response to progesterone. We show that an increased expression of miR-130a or decreased expression of DSCAM-AS1 corresponds with improved survival outcomes in breast cancer patients, similar to the effects of progesterone treatment," says Dr. Dutt. "When taken as a whole, our research represents the first step in describing the progesterone-responsive long non-coding RNAs and their mechanistic functional insight downstream of progesterone in breast cancer cells, parallel to other regulatory pathways."

"The potential therapeutic benefit of progesterone and its mediators is the highlight of the current study," he says.

Hormone therapy targets hormone receptors in breast cancer cells to slow or stop the growth of cancer. It is a standard treatment for breast cancer and is often used in combination with other treatments such as surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. However, resistance to hormone therapy in breast cancer is a significant problem in treating hormone receptor-positive breast cancer.

One of the main mechanisms of resistance to hormone therapy is the presence of mutations in the hormone receptors themselves or through the down-regulation of its expression levels.

Another implication of the latest study is that when the microRNA miR-130a binds to the estrogen receptors, it might lead to cancer cells becoming resistant to hormone therapy.

"It is currently a hypothesis and has to be verified through further studies," says Dr. Dutt.

Molecular mechanism of hormone therapy

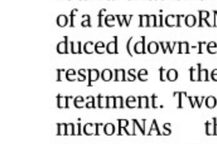
Hormone therapy targets hormone receptors in breast cancer cells to slow/stop the growth of cancer

- A 2018 study found two genes being produced in excess amount, while the expression of a few microRNAs was reduced when breast cancer cell lines were treated with progesterone
- Through the action of SGK1 and two other genes, and two microRNAs, the ability of the breast cancer cells to migrate and invade is reduced
- Current work focused on the role of non-coding genes; non-coding genes do not produce any proteins but regulate the expression of other genes
- Treatment of breast cancer cells with progesterone results in down-regulation of a long non-coding linc RNA called DSCAM-AS1. This results in elevated levels of a microRNA known as miR-130a

Treatable: Hormone therapy is a standard treatment for breast cancer and is often used in combination with other treatments such as surgery.

- As with progesterone therapy, reducing the expression of DSCAM-AS1 slowed down the ability of breast cancer cells to invade and migrate
- The detection of DSCAM-1 in blood or tumour tissue is likely to provide information about the aggressiveness of cancer and prognosis
- The researchers hypothesise that cancer cells might be resistant to hormone therapy when the microRNA miR-130a binds to the estrogen receptors

Domestic goat as a drug factory



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The domestic goat (*Capra hircus*) is a familiar presence in the rural landscape of India and in many developing countries. The goat has played an important economic role in human communities from the time it was domesticated about 10,000 years ago. It has even been argued that the domestication of goats was an important step in mankind's shift from a hunting-gathering lifestyle to agricultural settlements.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that the world has 830 million goats belonging to about 1,000 breeds. India has 150 million from over 20 prominent breeds. Rajasthan has the most number of goats – the Marwari goat found here is hardy and well-adapted to the climate of deserts. Another hardy breed, found in the dry regions of Maharashtra, Telangana and North Karnataka is the Osmanabadi.

The Malabari (also called Tellicherry) of North Kerala is a prolific breed with low-fat meat, and shares these traits with the beetal goat of Punjab.

The east Indian Black Bengal goat is a vital contributor to the livelihoods of the rural poor of Bangladesh. It contributes over 20 million square feet of skin and hides to the world's demands for leather goods, from firefighters' gloves to fashionable handbags. As many farmers lack the space or funds to rear cattle, the goat is rightly called "the poor man's cow".

Indian highlands have scant populations of wild goats, from which domestic goats or sheep have evolved. These include the *markhor* and the Himalayan and Nilgiri tahr.

Genes from Indian goat breeds spread to all parts of the world during the golden age of steamships. Goats laden on ships heading to Europe from India provided milk and meat on the months-long journey. The Jamunapari goats of Uttar Pradesh were favoured as they yield 300 kg of milk during eight months of lactation. Once in England, the Jamunapari was bred with local breeds to produce the Anglo-Nubian, a champion producer of high-fat milk.

Genetically improved: In England, the Jamunapari goat was bred with local breeds to produce the Anglo-Nubian.

Producing therapeutics

With a generation time of about two years, and plenty of milk production, it is not surprising that goats have attracted the attention of biotechnology companies wishing to produce therapeutic proteins in bulk.

The first success came with ATryn, the trade name for a goat-produced antithrombin III molecule. Antithrombin keeps the blood free from clots, and its deficiency (usually inherited) can lead to serious complications such as pulmonary embolisms. Affected individuals need antithrombin injections twice a week, usually purified from donated blood.

Transgenic goats carrying a copy of the human antithrombin gene have cells in their mammary glands that release this protein into milk. It has been claimed that one goat could produce antithrombin equivalent to what was obtained from 90,000 units of human blood.

Recently, the monoclonal antibody cetuximab, which has been approved by the FDA as an anti-cancer drug against certain lung cancers, has also been produced in cloned goat lines. Large quantities can be made this way (10 grams per litre of milk). It is not yet known whether this 'Farmaceutical' will clear regulatory hurdles regarding safety and efficacy. Will other monoclonal antibodies be produced some day in large quantities using goats as drug factories?

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling. sushilchandani@gmail.com)

SNAPSHOTS

Oldest-known caecilian dated at 220 million years old found

Researchers have found the oldest-known fossil of a worm-like amphibian known as a caecilian (*Nature*). The findings extend the caecilian fossil record by 35 million years. The creature combines features found in the common ancestor of living caecilians with those of an extinct group of amphibians called the dissorophoid temnospondyls. It bridges the gap between modern caecilians and extinct tetrapods and confirms the position of caecilians within Lissamphibia, the group that contains frogs.

Obesity linked to heightened risk of frailty in older age

Carrying far too much weight, including a midriff bulge, from mid-life onwards, is linked to a heightened risk of physical frailty in older age (*BMJ Open*). Frailty is often wrongly perceived as a purely wasting disorder, say the researchers, who emphasise the importance of keeping trim throughout adulthood to help minimise the risk. Mounting evidence suggests that obese older adults may be at increased risk because obesity aggravates the age-related decline in muscle strength, aerobic capacity, and physical function.

Microbiome dysfunction could be partly transmissible

People who live together tend to harbour the same microbes in their guts and mouths, according to a global study. Mothers provide their children with a 'starter kit' of microbes when they are infants. But that microbiome shifts over time to incorporate microbial strains from family members and unrelated housemates. The finding raises the spectre that diseases linked to microbiome dysfunction such as cancer, diabetes and obesity could be partly transmissible.

Question Corner

Migrating birds

What causes migrating birds to go astray?

Bad weather can sometimes cause birds to become disoriented during their annual fall migrations, causing them to wind up in territory they are unaccustomed to. But even when weather is not a major factor, do birds travel far away from their usual routes? A new study by ecologists of the University of California, Los Angeles explores one reason: disturbances to Earth's magnetic field can lead birds astray – a phenomenon scientists call vagrancy – even in perfect weather, and especially during fall migration (*Scientific Reports*).

There is increasing evidence that birds can actually see geomagnetic fields. But birds' ability to navigate using geomagnetic fields can be impaired when those magnetic fields are disturbed. Such disturbances can come from the sun's magnetic field. As per a release, researchers found a strong correlation between birds that were captured far outside of their expected range and geomagnetic disturbances that occurred during both fall and spring migrations.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

How will the T+1 settlement cycle impact markets?

What was the infrastructure required for the transition? Will it help investors?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

On January 27, stock markets in India concluded its transition to the T+1 settlement regime. It has became the second largest market after China to have made the transition ahead of the U.S., Europe and Japan which adhere to the T+2 settlement cycle. The phased transition had begun on February 25 last year following markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s circular in September 2021.

What is the T+1 settlement cycle about?

A trade involves three important functions, execution of trade, clearing and settlement, carried out by separate entities. The clearing function entails the concerned entity determining the obligation of what is due to be delivered and what is to be received by the parties involved. Risk assessment of both parties is carried out at this stage. The process ensures that the parties have enough funds or transferrable assets for the transaction to go through. On the settlement date, funds and securities are transferred to their new owners. All of it is preceded by purchase or sale of a stock. It is represented using 'T', that is, trade executed on a particular day. Since clearing used to take place the next day followed by another day for settlement, the previous mechanism was defined as 'T+2'. From now onwards, the settlement will be done the next day itself, thus, T+1.

'From an investor standpoint, the rotation of money will become swifter with the T+1 cycle. For brokerages, it will reduce the amount of margin they keep with clearing houses'

About the infrastructural changes made for the transition, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) told *The Hindu*, "At our end, we have kept our infrastructure ready to take care of additional activities in the T+1 settlement cycle, including updation of securities settlement data, real-time monitoring systems, margin computation, settlement activities etc, within the reduced time cycles." The exchange said it did not observe any gaps, and all processes were managed smoothly.

In a digital age, why is a settlement not done instantly?

The process is complex and there are many entities involved. Founder & CEO of brokerage firm Zerodha, Nithin Kamath, had stated in a post, "While instant settlement is impossible, even T+0 is extremely tough considering the time required for brokers to crystalise the obligations and then clearing corporations to settle." It is important to note that an investor cannot directly buy or sell shares on a stock exchange. Registered members of a stock exchange, called stock brokers, trade on an investor's behalf. Even though individuals can open a demat account on their own by contacting a depository participant (DP), they would require a trading account, which is provisioned by a SEBI-registered broker, to purchase or sell shares. The size and operational capability of the individual broker is another important factor.

What is the debate around the T+1 regime?

Global investment associations, including Asia Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association, Asia Trader Forum and The Investment Association (IA) in a joint open letter (in September 2021) had observed the transition would require "end-to-end process redesign and substantial technology investments and enhancements to support near real-time processing capabilities and necessitating an extended migration timeline." It added that this would be particularly true for overseas investors (such as those based in the U.S. and Europe) for participating in the Indian market owing to time zone differences and involvement of multiple parties (such as global and local custodians, FX banks and brokers) in different jurisdictions.

Milan Vaishnav, founder of Chartwizard FZE and Gemstone Equity Research, told *The Hindu*, "What happened till now is they would take some time in allocation of trade to the client, which will now have to be faster," adding, "The time zone difference too would pose some difficulties but ultimately they will align themselves." The United States' Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had also argued in its proposal (February 2022) that the more days that elapse between the execution of a trade and a counterparty default, the greater would be the variance of price change. In other words, it is likely that the asset's price would deviate from the execution price. According to Mr. Vaishnav, from an investor standpoint, "The rotation of money would become swifter. Further, you would be keeping less margins with the broker, obligations would be a day shorter and receipts would also come a day earlier than before. Overall, it would lead to some reduction in the overall margin obligations of the retail investor or the trader." For brokerages, Mr. Vaishnav states that it would reduce the amount of margin they keep with clearing houses because the settlements would be faster.

Why is SC examining marriage laws for minors?

Are provisions of the Prevention of Child Marriage Act being diluted by custom and personal laws? What are the consequences of girls getting married before they become adults? What needs to be done to prevent child marriage?

Sudipta Datta

The story so far:

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court announced that it would examine whether minor girls, as young as 15 years, can marry on the basis of custom or personal law when such marriages are considered an offence in statutory law. The legal age for marriage is 18 years for women and 21 years for men. Marriage below this age is considered to be child marriage, and hence an offence. In 2017, the Supreme Court had ruled that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, who is below 18 years, is rape, reading down Exception 2 to Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code which allowed the husband of a girl child – between 15 and 18 years of age – to have non-consensual sex with her.

What is the Supreme Court looking at?

On January 13, the Supreme Court said it would examine whether girls as young as 15 years old can enter into wedlock if their personal law allows it. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued a formal notice on a petition filed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) against a recent order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court that said a girl, on attaining puberty or the age of 15 years and above, could be married on the basis of Muslim personal law, irrespective of the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Supreme Court said the High Court order would not act as a judicial precedent for other courts. The NCPCR argued that when girls as young as 14 and 15 are being married off, a plea of personal law and custom cannot be used when the POCSO Act and the Indian Penal Code make such marriages an offence. The Supreme Court has also appealed to Parliament to lower the age of consent under the POCSO Act and the IPC which set it at 18 years, thus criminalising all adolescent consensual sexual activity. Last December, the government told Parliament that it does not plan to do that yet.

Health workers say girls who get married before turning into adults lack reproductive choices and are denied a host of other rights

Need for awareness: One of the placards during the launch of the 'Child marriage-free India' campaign at a slum in New Delhi on October 16, 2022. AFP

What are the various laws that govern marriage in India?

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has sought to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, to increase the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years. In December 2021, it was referred to a parliamentary standing committee for further deliberations, and it has already got three extensions to submit its report, the last being in October 2022.

Last December, the Supreme Court had asked the government to respond to another petition filed by the National Commission for Women (NCW) to make the minimum age of marriage for Muslim women on par with persons belonging to other faiths. The NCW, like the NCPCR, had raised the question whether personal law could override statutory provisions of the POCSO Act and other laws. The NCW petition stated that under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, Special Marriage Act, 1954 and Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the minimum age of marriage for a man is 21 years and for a woman it is 18 years. "However, under the Muslim personal law in India, persons who have attained puberty are eligible to get married i.e. on attaining the age of 15 years, while they are still minor," it said.

What has the Assam government decreed?

The Assam Cabinet recently announced that men who marry minor girls would be booked under stringent laws prescribing imprisonment from two years to life. Citing the National Family Health Survey-5 report, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said an average of 31.8% of girls in Assam get married at the "prohibited age" and 11.7% become mothers before adulthood. The national average is 23.3% and 6.8% respectively.

Which are the other States where child marriage is high?

An analysis of Child Marriage in India based on Census 2011 by Young Lives, India and NCPCR in June 2017 identified 70 districts spread across 13 States including Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal where prevalence of child marriage is high. According to activists and health workers, targeted interventions including awareness campaigns on reproductive health and provisions of the law, are being carried out to prevent and reduce child marriage, and though NFHS-5 data show improvement, there's a lot of ground left to be covered. In Jharkhand, according to NFHS-5 (2021), 32.2% women married before they turned 18 compared to 37.9% in 2016 (NFHS 4); in West Bengal, 41.6% women got married before they turned 18 (NFHS-5) and the percentage was the same in NFHS-4; Madhya Pradesh has seen a reduction in child marriage (from 32.4% in NFHS-4 to 23.1% in NFHS-5), though the infant mortality rate is high – 41.3 per 1000 live births.

What are the effects of early marriage?

The Young Lives, India-NCPCR study pointed out that girls who got married before turning into adults lacked reproductive choices and were denied a host of other rights, including education, autonomy and often a lack of livelihood. With 59% of Indian girls in the 15-19 group suffering from anaemia – it stood at 54% in NFHS-4 – early child-bearing could result in poor maternal and child health and poor nutritional status.

Health experts tie maternal health to another crucial factor – education. The national percentage of women with 10 or more years of schooling is 41% (NFHS-5) compared to 35.7% in NFHS-4; the data varies from State to State. In West Bengal, according to NFHS-5, 32.9% of women have finished 10 or more years of schooling. In two villages of Birbhum district in West Bengal that the anthropologist Mukulika Banerjee has studied since 1998, she observed that while girls continued to be married off early for a variety of reasons, those that had completed school seemed to be making the radical decision to have only one child. They said they would prefer to raise one child with care, and were able to help them with homework, provide better nutrition and so on.

Are provisions of the PCMA misused?

Women's rights activists point out that parents often use the PCMA to punish their daughters who marry against their wishes or elope to evade forced marriages, domestic abuse, and lack of education possibilities. Hence, within a patriarchal setting, it is more likely that the change in the age limit will increase parents' authority over young adults. A 2008 Law Commission report on family law reform recommended a uniform age of marriage for boys and girls at 18 years and not 21. It held that since 18 is the age at which a citizen can vote, they should be allowed to marry at that age too.

Why is Air India irked with DGCA penalty?

What are the rules regarding passenger behaviour on board a flight? Was there a delay in reporting the recent urination incident? Who is responsible? Is the DGCA action justified? What have airline employee unions alleged?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

Air India has called as excessive the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) decision to suspend the licence of one of its pilots for a period of three months following the November 26 incident on a New York-Delhi flight where a lady passenger complained that a co-traveller had urinated over her. The incident went without being reported to the DGCA or the accused being handed over to the police. Six airline employees' unions have also demanded a withdrawal of this 'harsh' punishment.

What is the penalty imposed by the DGCA?

On January 20, the DGCA announced a total of three punishments for Air India and two of its personnel for an incident on November 26, 2022 on a New York -Delhi flight where 34-year-old Shankar Mishra, who is in judicial custody, allegedly urinated over a senior citizen lady passenger in a heavily inebriated state but walked away as the airline failed to hand him over to the police after the flight landed. It announced a fine of ₹30 lakh on Air India, suspension of the licence of the pilot-in-command Captain Narayan Ramprasad for three months, and a fine of ₹3 lakh on the director of in-flight services of Air India for failing to discharge her duties.

'Rules identify a pilot as responsible for the safety of the flight and its passengers, and so a penalty is justified'

The incident raised questions not only about a misdemeanour against a lady passenger which can amount to a potential sexual assault going unreported, but also the airline's protocols in dealing with an incident that can endanger the safety of an aircraft.

Troubled skies: Air India faces three penalties by DGCA. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

What rules form the DGCA's decision?

The DGCA has cited two important rules to explain its action, of which the first pertains to Civil Aviation Requirement, (Section 3- Air Transport Series M Part VI) which deals with handling of unruly passengers. The rules recognise that an unruly passenger can jeopardise the safety of a flight and lay down the duties of an airline in training its crew and developing SOPs to ensure timely identification of potential unruly passengers at check-in, in the lounges, at the boarding gate or any other place in the terminal building. It requires an airline representative to file an FIR once the aircraft lands with the concerned security agency at aerodrome, to whom, the unruly passenger shall be handed over. The airline is also expected to form an internal committee to probe the incident. The second rule is Rule 141 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 which defines the responsibility of a pilot-in-command (PIC) who has to "supervise and direct the other members of the crew in the proper discharge of their duties in the flight operations". In addition to being responsible for the operation and safety of the aircraft during flight time, the PIC is also "responsible for the safety of the passengers and cargo carried and for the maintenance of flight discipline and safety of the members of the crew."

Why have Air India and employee unions raised objections?

In a public statement on January 24, Air India while calling the DGCA's punishment for its PIC "excessive" and announcing that it will be providing him assistance to appeal against the decision, explained that it believed its pilot and cabin crew had acted in "good faith" and couldn't have identified the accused passenger, as unruly since he was "calm, co-operative and did not appear intoxicated to the crew" and that "in the judgment of the crew, the alleged perpetrator posed no risk to flight safety at any time". It also added that there had been a mutual settlement between the accused and the lady passenger who levelled allegations against him, and there were no eyewitnesses to the incident, and to ask the crew to make a presumption of the accused's guilt would be "contrary to natural justice".

The unions asked the DGCA in a joint letter to "withdraw the harsh punishment and suspension" of the PIC as he filed all reports "instantly upon landing" but the Air India management and senior officials failed to act upon them and report the matter to the DGCA within the 12-hour window. They have also raised questions about Air India's internal committee report on the incident and called it full of "inadequacies and inaccuracies" that also failed to provide the pilots and cabin crew an opportunity to appear before it, therefore, resulting in a "miscarriage of justice".

But a senior government official closely involved with the matter said, "the pilot and crew can't act like the judge and the jury. They have to believe the lady passenger and file a complaint and let the police do its job."

Is the punishment harsh?

Such a punishment is not considered unusual at all. In 2022, according to DGCA data, there were a total 115 enforcement actions against pilots which included warnings in 37 cases, suspensions in 77 cases and withdrawal of licence in one case. A total of 113 cabin crew and seven ATCOs (air traffic control officers) also faced suspensions. The ground for such enforcement action against a pilot can vary from reporting for duty under the influence of alcohol, or flying through turbulence despite being cautioned or flying a plane despite knowledge of a technical glitch and jeopardising the safety of the passengers. "If the DGCA issued a showcause notice to the pilot and found his response inadequate, then the action is justified as the PIC is in-charge of the safety of the aircraft. But we may argue about the quantum of punishment handed out, as the rules don't define that and the DGCA can arbitrarily decide on that," said aviation safety expert Mohan Ranganthan. A three-month suspension could set a pilot back by nearly ₹20 lakh-₹24 lakh, while the airline itself has a ₹30 lakh fine.

PROFILES

The General with an iron grip

Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

India's Republic Day Parade Chief Guest, who came to power in Egypt in 2013 through a coup, is trying to build a careful balance between the West and the East, while keeping the country under his tight control

Suhasini Haidar

In early 2011, the eyes of democratic activists worldwide were on Tahrir Square, as thousands descended on the public square at the heart of Cairo to demand the resignation of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak. At the time, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the Director of Military Intelligence, a powerful post in a regime that ruled by emergency powers for 30 years. As the crowds grew, the military seemed less inclined to support Mubarak, especially as reports grew in credence that Mubarak planned to install his son Gamal as his successor.

The tide turned immediately, and as Mubarak stepped down just weeks after the protests began, his resignation was seen as a massive victory for the Arab Spring movement. Within a year, Egypt saw its first civilian President, elected through a popular vote for the first time – Mohammed Morsi, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) leader, won with more than 50% of the vote, defeating a former Prime Minister of the Mubarak regime.

President Morsi made Mr. Sisi, who had won the hearts of many Egyptians for the military's role during and restoring stability after the Tahrir Square protests, his Defence Minister and Commander of the Armed Forces in August 2012. The post was significant – for decades, the military and the ultraconservative Muslim Brotherhood had been enemies, and the MB was proscribed and prosecuted in Egypt by every regime since 1948, accused of fomenting violence, terrorism and a string of assassinations. While many had misgivings about the MB, especially its ties to radicalised terror groups, most of the world welcomed the advent of real elections in Egypt, and Morsi was welcomed in many capitals, including New Delhi, Riyadh and Beijing.

In the short period since the protests began, Mr. Sisi had broken with his President (Mubarak), and superseded all his seniors in the military, a portent of things to come. Within a year, by June 2013, Mr. Morsi's Islamist policies, confrontation with the judiciary and economic misgovernance brought Egyptians out at Tahrir Square again – for what was called the 'Tamarrud' movement, or rebellion. Mr. Sisi, once again broke with his President, this time Morsi, and announced his dismissal. In a televised address on July 3, Mr. Sisi said Morsi was unfit to rule, and as a result it was for him, "based on the Army's historical and patriotic responsibility" to suspend the Constitution, and to appoint the Chief Justice as the provisional President.

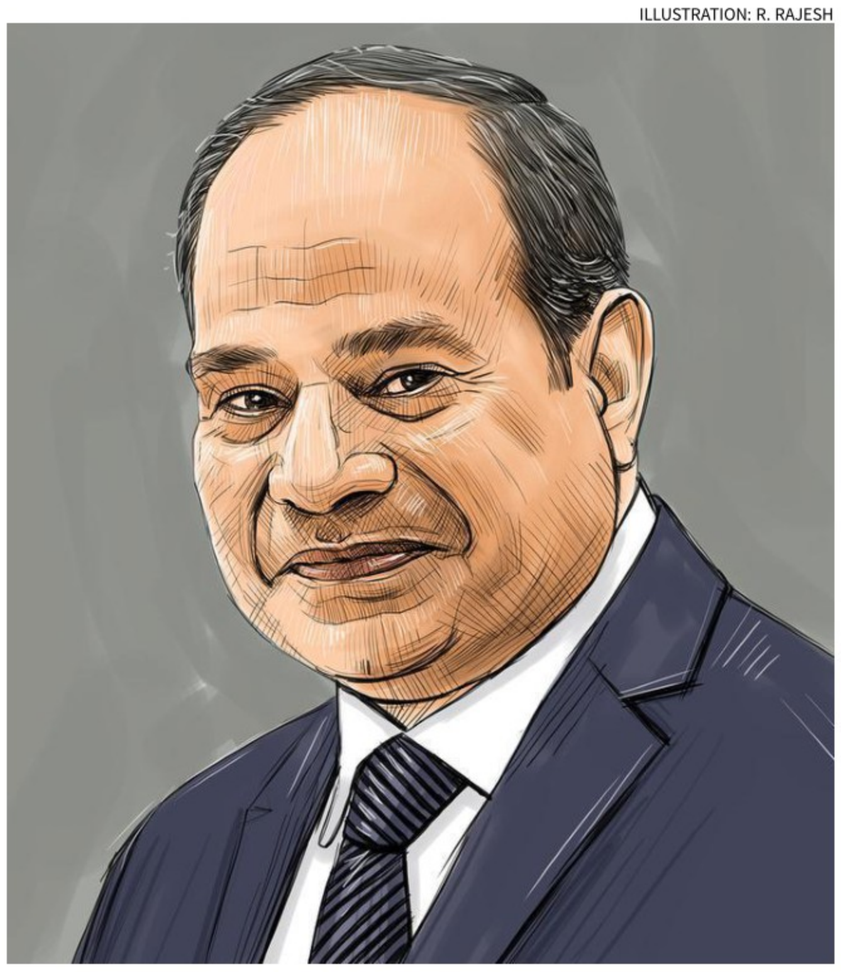
Brutal crackdown

The coup was followed by a brutal crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood and other opponents – Gen. Sisi, who was soon made Field Marshall Sisi, was accused of ordering the police and armed forces to clear protesters from the Rabaa square, in a night of bloodshed that saw more than 900 killed. Many countries expressed concern and even long-time ally the U.S. froze its military aid to Egypt.

In elections in 2014, however, Mr. Sisi ran for President, winning 96.91% of the vote. The staggering, if controversial, mandate led to a turnaround in Egypt's ties with the world. PM Narendra Modi invited and met President Sisi thrice, once for the India-Africa Summit in 2015, then for a full state visit in 2016, and last week, as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day Parade, the first time an Egyptian leader has been accorded the honour.

During the visit, Mr. Sisi and Mr. Modi upgraded ties between the two countries to a Strategic Partnership, and Indian officials discussed closer defence ties, including providing Egypt with equipment and platforms, that Egyptian officials compare to the 1960s cooperation between Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Mr. Sisi is seen as consummate statesman with global powers, and has built a careful balance between the West on one side and Russia and China on the other, taking a stand akin to India over the Ukraine conflict. Egypt's ties with Israel have traditionally been closer than the rest of the Arab world since the 1979 Camp David accord, and Mr. Sisi has spoken publicly about Egypt-Israel military cooperation on fighting trans-border terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula, something that strikes a chord in India. PM Modi and President Sisi have reportedly forged close ties during their meetings, and the latter is due to return for a fourth visit later this year, as India has designated Egypt one of its Special Invitees to the G20 summit.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



Along with the international stature and ease with global leaders, Mr. Sisi has also received growing criticism for his authoritarian rule of Egypt, in step with the sort of "strongmen" leadership that was seen through the 2010 decade – with Alpha-leaders being elected in democracies across the world from the U.S. to the U.K., Brazil, Poland, Hungary, India and Pakistan. In step with the trends, Mr. Sisi's government hasn't just targeted religious extremists, but journalists, women, gay rights activists, NGOs, human rights groups and comedians.

"The military has 60 years of experience," Bassem Youssef, the satirist who shot to fame during the Tahrir Square protests for his caricatures of Mubarak and Morsi, told the BBC after relocating to the U.S., fearing arrest in 2018. "The difference between the military and the Muslim Brotherhood is that one tried to stop my show and eliminate me, and couldn't; and one tried and succeeded because of experience."

When asked by U.S. channel CBS on the '60 Minutes' show, Mr. Sisi rejected the charges. "We are dealing with fundamentalists and extremists which caused damage and killed people over these last years. I can't ask Egyptians to forget their rights or the police and civilians who died," he said. The image, however, stuck.

'Favourite dictator'

In 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump reportedly walked into a meeting with Mr. Sisi on the sidelines of the G-7 conference in France's Biarritz, and asked the media gathered, "Where is my favourite dictator?" Regardless of the moniker, Mr. Sisi's popularity with the Egyptian professional classes has only grown, as is his pitch to Egyptian pride, secular traditions and promises to focus on the economy with an "Egypt vision 2030".

Mr. Sisi has also wowed many with his infrastructure splurge – including smooth new highways, the Suez Canal expansion and the construction of a brand new capital 50 km away from Cairo. In 2021, he invited the world's elite to a gala show at the newly built billion-dollar museum, where 22 mummies of Egyptian Kings and Queens were transported from the old museum in a grand convoy called the "Pharaoh's Golden Parade" that circled Tahrir Square, and said the "grandiose spectacle was further proof of the greatness of a unique civilisation that extends into the depths of history".

Some have questioned the expense of Mr. Sisi's spectacular projects, especially as Egypt had to apply for IMF rescue packages to deal with its economic crisis. While Mr. Sisi himself rejects any comparisons to the Pharaohs, he projects his unapologetic iron grip over the country as a strength that has provided Egypt stability.

And in what is also a sign of the times – Tahrir Square, once the venue for the world-famous protests, has been repainted in military khaki colours and rebuilt by Mr. Sisi to house a Pharaonic-era obelisk. It is off limits, even to tourists, as armed policemen are, under orders, to ensure that visitors don't stop there for too long, or demonstrate again.

THE GIST

- When Arab protests broke out in Egypt against President Hosni Mubarak in 2011, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the Director of Military Intelligence
- After Mubarak was ousted, Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first and only elected President, made Sisi, who had helped the democratic transition, his Defence Minister
- In June 2013, as protests broke out against President Morsi's policies, Sisi came on TV sacking Morsi from office and taking power in the military's hands
- Ever since, he has consolidated power, sidelined critics, cracked down on dissent, launched ambitious infrastructure projects and sought to build stronger ties with global powers, from the U.S. to China and India

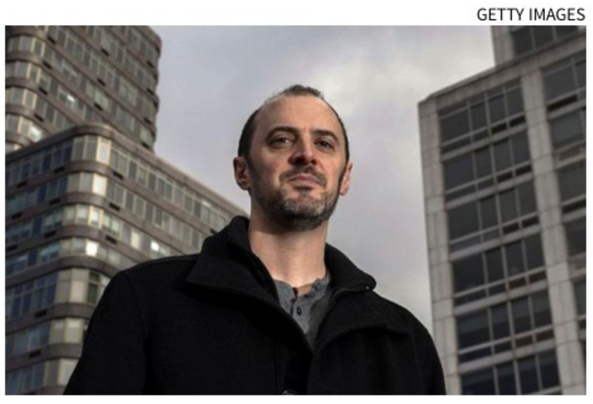
With an eye for fraud

Hindenburg Research

The short seller at the centre of the storm over its report on the Adani Group's corporate practices is a small firm 'specialising in forensic financial research'

Suresh Seshadri

GETTY IMAGES



Short sellers are as old as corporate stocks themselves.

The first known instance of short selling dates back to the early 17th century and involved stock in the Dutch East India Company, which is widely considered the first ever joint-stock company. According to Ludwijk Petram, an economist and historian from the Netherlands who was featured on U.S.-based National Public Radio's 'Planet Money' show in 2015, Isaac Le Maire, a disgruntled former director of the Dutch East India Company, sought to wreak revenge on the company for being expelled by betting that the company's stock price would fall. To this end, he is said to have started spreading rumours that were aimed at pushing the stock's price down.

The company is reported to have sought a ban on short selling, citing the economic injury it contended was being caused to the wider public, and succeeded in obtaining both a partial ban on short selling and a prohibition on Le Maire accessing any of his shares, thus thwarting the short seller's plans.

Over the centuries, short sellers were viewed with suspicion by the establishments of the day.

For all the opprobrium, short sellers have often enough served a valuable socio-economic function by helping expose financial irregularities in corporations big and small that have raised capital from the public. Given that they take the risk of a substantial financial loss in case their bet that a company's share value is going to decline over a certain time period, short sellers invariably spend a lot of time and effort researching the company they are looking to short.

From predicting the fall of the once powerful energy provider Enron Corporation, to accurately foreseeing the financial meltdown in 2007, short sellers have earned themselves a reputation of serving as early warning systems of corporate and market malfeasance.

Hindenburg Research, a small firm founded by Nathan 'Nate' Anderson (in picture) in 2017 that operates out of the Upper West Side in New York City, is a short seller that has built its reputation over its focus on forensic financial research. Over the space of just two months in 2017, Hindenburg published more than four articles on four different Nasdaq-listed companies, including a bitcoin miner and a biotech firm that subsequently resulted in charges being filed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) against key officials at these firms.

Chinese company

The following year, Hindenburg published its first major article on a then $2 billion market capitalised Chinese logistics provider, Yangtze River Port & Logistics. Hindenburg's investigation into the Nasdaq-listed firm revealed that the company's key asset didn't appear to exist.

While the China-based firm sued the short seller for defamation, Hindenburg says on its website that "multiple independent media outlets and a law firm corroborated our reporting". Yangtze River Port, which lost over 98% of its market cap, was subsequently delisted from the Nasdaq and its lawsuit against the short seller was dismissed.

However, it was in 2020, that the short seller came into its own, taking on at least seven companies in the space of an equal number of months.

Hindenburg's September 2020 report on electric vehicle maker Nikola Corp. titled "Nikola: How to Parlay An Ocean of Lies Into a Partnership With the Largest Auto OEM in America" was its most significant investigation until its latest report on the Adani Group.

With the help of whistleblowers and former employees, the short seller established that Nikola had resorted to several falsifications including a promotional video for its Nikola One semi [truck trailer] that was "nothing more than the truck being rolled down a hill in the Utah desert". The report led to the resignation of Nikola's founder and executive chairman Trevor Milton, with a jury last October convicting Mr. Milton on charges of having defrauded investors.

Howsoever the denouement in the Adani case may end up, Hindenburg's latest salvo has shown that the firm and its founder Mr. Anderson have the appetite to take on the rich and the powerful.

Fire on wheels

Leopard 2

With dozens of German-built main battle tanks and other western weapons coming in, Ukraine hopes to bolster its offensive capability against Russian troops

Stanly Johny

Initially, Germany was apprehensive and reluctant. Chancellor Olaf Scholz was of the view that sending Leopard 2s, his country's main battle tanks (MBT), to Ukraine would escalate the conflict with Russia. His ruling coalition was divided. Polls showed that most Germans were against such a move. But as Russia started pushing through the frontlines, Berlin came under enormous pressure from Washington and other NATO allies to send the Leopard 2, one of the most advanced MBTs in the world, to Kyiv. On January 25, Germany decided to send the tanks and allow other NATO members to re-export the vehicle to Ukraine in what Kyiv's western allies think would be a game changing move.

The U.K. had already agreed to send 14 of its MBTs, the Challenger 2, to Ukraine. As part of a deal with Germany, the U.S. also overcame its early reluctance and decided to send 31 of its M1 Abrams battle tank. But it's the Leopards that Ukraine has always asked for, in large quantities. Germany will provide 14 Leopard 2s and other NATO members are planning to send two battalions – around 80 tanks. This means, Ukraine, which is currently operating the Soviet-era T-72s, will have over 100 western MBTs by the Spring.

Developed in the 1970s by the West German army, the Leopard 2 entered into service at a time when the Cold War was at its peak. By many standards, defence analysts say, the Leopard 2 is a superior MBT than the Soviet-era T-72 or T-90. According to the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based think tank, the Leopard 2, equipped with night-vision equipment and a laser range finder that can calculate the distance to a target, has a higher level of stabilisation than other MBTs – Leopard 2s can accurately fire at a moving target.

Armed with a 120mm smooth bore gun and two coaxial light machine guns, the Leopard 2 has a range of over 500 km (how far they can roll before refuelling) and a top speed of about 70 kmph, according to Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, the German maker of the tank. In comparison, the Abrams' top speed is 68 kmph and the Challenger 2's is 56 kmph. The T-90, Russia's most advanced MBT, has a range of 550 km and a top speed of 60 kmph.

Deployment in Europe

Leopard 2s, run on diesel, have been used in several theatres (from Afghanistan to Kosovo) and are available in large numbers in Europe – more than 2,000 Leopard 2s have been deployed across the continent. Poland, Ukraine's neighbour and a key supplier of military aid, has close to 300 Leopard 2s, while Finland, another neighbour, has 200 of them. This meant that Ukraine's allies could send the tanks and the spare parts rather easily.

The main barrier for supply was the German reluctance – other countries cannot export those tanks without Berlin's consent. Now that Germany has shown its greenlight, dozens of Leopard 2s are set to roll over into Ukraine.

But it's too early to say if tanks alone can shift the battlefield dynamics. The Leopard 2 is not an all powerful magic bullet. It has its shortcomings. Turkey, which has some 300 Leopard 2s, lost at least eight in an operation against Islamist militants in Syria in 2016. Experts say there are weak points in the tank's rear and side armour which can be exploited.

In the case of Ukraine, it would take months to train its soldiers to operate these complex weapons systems, which leaves a window open for Russia to expedite its offensive that's gathering storm in Ukraine's east and south. And Russia doesn't face any shortage of tanks – it has up to 1,000 T-90s, according to some estimates, and many more T-72s, besides light tanks such as T-70s.

But still, the remilitarisation of Ukraine should worry Russian President Vladimir Putin. Almost a year into the war, the free flow of weapons into Ukraine from the West is growing, not waning. If demilitarising Ukraine was one of the main declared goals of his "special military operation", Ukraine now has more advanced offensive and defensive weapons than what it had at the beginning of the war, including heavy battle tanks, armoured vehicles, munitions, medium range rockets and missile defence batteries.

INBRIEF

BMW unveils sports activity vehicle BMW X1 at ₹45.9 lakh

BMW India introduced the third-generation, all-new BMW X1 sports activity vehicle (SAV) in both petrol and diesel versions, here. Deliveries of BMW X1 diesel would commence in March and petrol from June, said Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India while addressing the media. While the petrol variant is priced at ₹45.90 lakh, the diesel variant comes at a price tag of ₹47.90 lakh. Both the vehicles are being produced at the company's plant in Chennai.

Overseas VSF makers get time for securing quality certificate

The Centre has given 60 days time for overseas viscose staple fibre (VSF) producers to get quality certificate for fibre imported by India. After a meeting, Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted, "Met stakeholders of the Viscose Staple Fibre (VSF) value chain to discuss issues faced by them. On the request of the industry, it was agreed to extend the implementation of the Quality Control Order by 60 days, ensuring adequate availability of high quality VSF in the country."

NTPC Q3 net rises 5%, declares 42.5% interim dividend

NTPC reported an almost 5% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹4,854.36 crore for the December quarter, mainly due to higher revenue. Total income rose to ₹44,989.21 crore in the quarter from ₹33,783.62 crore in the year-earlier period. The board of directors decided to pay an interim dividend at the rate of 42.50% (₹4.25 per share) on the face value of paid-up equity shares of ₹10 each for the financial year 2022-23. PTI

Index provider MSCI seeks Adani feedback

Eight of the group's firms are part of the MSCI Standard Index; U.S. -based Hindenburg has alleged stock manipulation, accounting fraud by Adani

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Index provider MSCI on Saturday said it has sought feedback on Adani Group securities after a report by U.S.-based investment research firm Hindenburg alleged stock manipulation and accounting fraud by the conglomerate.

MSCI said it is aware of the reports published regarding the Adani Group and associated securities.

"MSCI is closely monitoring publicly available information regarding the situation and the factors that may impact the eligibility of those relevant securities for the MSCI Global Investable Market Indexes," it said. Market experts believe any adverse feedback may lead to a reduction in weightage or even exclusion of Adani stocks from the MSCI index. This might further raise selling pressure faced by the Adani Group stocks.

Storm clouds

Adani Group stocks have suffered sharp declines in the two trading sessions since the short seller released its report

- Group firms have lost more than ₹4.17 lakh crore in combined market valuation
- Market experts caution adverse feedback may lead to a cut in weightage or even exclusion of Adani stocks from the MSCI index

TVS plans to unveil slew of EVs, says MD

N. Anand
CHENNAI

K.N. Radhakrishnan.

TVS Motor Company Ltd. has lined up several EV products for introduction in the next 12 to 18 months, including an electric three-wheeler, said CEO K.N. Radhakrishnan.

Currently, TVS has only one product in the EV segment viz. iQube scooter.

"Every quarter, EV sales is practically doubling and this momentum would continue in Q4," he said during an analysts call.

"We are confident of crossing more than one lakh in EV sales in the domestic market during this financial year," he added.

He said EVs accounted for 10% of the firm's local scooter volume in Q3. After ramping up production to meet domestic demand, the firm would enter the international market.

Seshasayee Paper Q3 net profit soars to ₹109 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd. standalone net profit for the quarter ended December surged multifold to ₹109 crore from ₹5.90 crore.

Revenue from operations jumped to ₹556 crore from ₹334 crore, it said in a regulatory filing.

The board reappointed both whole-time director and chairman N. Gopalaratnam, and K.S. Kasi Viswanathan as MD.

'EVs are ideally suited to replace diesel SUVs'

EV tech is more suited for SUVs as all torque is available at low speed, says the Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Marketing Head Srivatsa

INTERVIEW

Vivek Srivatsa

Vikas Dhoot

Tata Motors is betting big on electric mobility, with plans to unveil electric versions of SUV Harrier with all-wheel drive functionality, and a redux of the Sierra, whose production version was displayed at the Auto Expo. While the two will be 'launched commercially in the coming couple of years', Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Marketing Head Vivek Srivatsa sees EV technology better suited for SUVs than diesel engines, and expects EVs to gain faster traction in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Excerpts:

Rivals like Hyundai are finding more takers for diesel engines in larger SUVs? Could shifting customer mindsets to EVs in this category pose a challenge?

Not at all. Diesel engines were indeed the preferred fuel option for larger SUVs because of the kind of torque they offer. The low-end torque performance is very good which suits SUV performance. But if anything, EVs are even more suited for SUVs, because you have all the torque available at low speed. And we are developing an all-wheel drive version of the Harrier with the ideal kind of a powertrain for SUVs. The larger wheelbase of SUVs allows us to package larger battery sizes, so it actually becomes a win-win for the customer - you have a longer range because of the larger battery size and the ability to go all wheel drive and the fantastic low-end torque available with EVs.

Obviously, Harrier EV will be one of the first electric mainstream SUVs in the market and we feel customers are going to be delighted by its performance. Electric will be the ideal replacement for diesel SUVs.

The EV phenomenon is still largely an urban phenomenon. How do you plan to tap the hinterland markets?

If you look at the four-wheeler car market, it started with the larger cities and rapidly penetrated into smaller towns. In EVs, we are confident this penetration into smaller towns and geographies will happen much faster.

There are a couple of reasons for that. Smaller town India is already used to electric vehicles in the form of two-wheelers. A lot of them are very comfortable using EVs, in terms of their range, and are familiar with the operational cost benefits, lower maintenance issues and ease of operation. So we don't need to do that education about driving EVs in the smaller towns. With accessible products like Tiago, and to some extent, better charging infrastructure, we will see a dramatically fast penetration into the smaller towns. One important thing we should realize is that most EV users meet over 95% of their charging needs at home. And that is easier in smaller towns than larger towns, because you have several individual homes without parking space constraints. The penetration of EVs in the smaller towns will happen much faster than what we have seen with ICE four wheelers in the past.

Your entry level EVs have done well, but is competition rising?

With over 50,000 happy EV customers, we will continue to act like a leader. We already have 3 EV products and have unveiled 3 more. To reach that level of product breadth will take some time.

A pragmatic and predictable tax regime, to help energise India's growth ambition

BUDGET FOCUS

Gokul Chaudhri

What will be the defining theme for Budget 2023 in relation to taxation?

The preceding years successfully navigated the tax framework towards competitive rates, delivered on critical reforms such as introduction of the GST, dispute resolution schemes and in the elimination of distortions such as the dividend distribution tax. The outcome has been a better globally-aligned tax framework and a welcome tax buoyancy.

Two major tax direct changes are on the anvil – adoption of global minimum tax as proposed under Pillar 2 of the G20/OECD proposals and the harmonization of the capital gains tax regime. The Union Budget needs to articulate their roll-out. In addition, it could propose tax initiatives for financing of India's climate and sustainability goals and enabling efficiency for start-ups issuing stock options.

Tax certainty

The biggest change in international taxation is the G20/OECD sponsored proposal for a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction global minimum tax of 15% on large multinational enterprises. As of now about 135 countries under the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework have been approved and the proposal is to be included in domestic tax legislation to be implemented from 2024. Already, the U.K., the Netherlands and Canada have released draft legislations or commenced stakeholder consultations. India, which currently has the G20 presidency, can take a lead in placing its proposed legislation for public consultation and outline the proposals in the Budget.

The government has stated its intention to revisit the capital gains tax regime to rationalise the plethora of differential holding periods, tax rates and asset classification. The Budget could roll out draft legislation and seek stakeholder inputs so that any major revamp is preceded by taxpayer engagement. This would underscore the theme of tax certainty and avoid any surprises for investors and taxpayers. Anxiety typically stems from unintended consequences when a complex legislation is tweaked, as illustrated by the discomfort of international investors on account of tax rate and implementation ambiguities when levy of long-term capital gains tax on sale of listed securities, was proposed in the Budget for 2018.

India has announced ambitious climate related targets for decarbonisation of its economy primarily through investments in renewable energy sources. Long term fund raising is essential to deliver energy transition and to achieve sustainable development goals. The RBI recently announced the issue of ₹160 billion sovereign green bonds. This initiative can be supplemented with private participation. To attract investments in green bonds issued by Indian issuers (including sovereign green bonds), interest during the period of holding the bonds and capital gains from the transfer of bonds, could be made exempt for investors. To incentivise issuers, accelerated tax depreciation can be provided on those assets acquired with the proceeds of green bonds, which meet the end-use requirements.

Gokul Chaudhri

The Union Cabinet recently approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission to bring in Production-Linked Incentives for manufacture of green hydrogen and its key component electrolyser. Such domestic manufacture should be explicitly made eligible for concessional 15% corporate tax rate and also, the current sunset of March 31, 2024 for commencing production, should be extended by at least 3-5 years.

Incentive for start-ups

Budget 2020 deferred the tax liability on issue of ESOPs to employees of eligible start-ups. The exemption applies to start-ups whose turnover does not exceed ₹1 billion. This threshold should be removed, and the benefit of deferral be made available to all start-ups during first 10 years. Certification from Inter-Ministerial Board of Certification (IMB) could be replaced by a self-declaration.

Simplification, such as introduction of alternative tax regime for individual taxpayers and the proposal on a common income tax return form are certainly welcome. The government would also do well to incorporate more of the recommendations made in 2016 by the Income Tax Simplification Committee led by Justice R.V. Easwar. A specialised institution could be established to provide constant advice on simplification of tax laws.

To sum up, Budget 2023 should press forward India's growth ambitions balanced with prudent fiscal policy with theme of transparency, certainty and predictability.

(Gokul Chaudhri is a Partner at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP)

Sport

Bengaluru takes advantage of a shoddy Chennaiyin performance

ISL-9

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Star player: Sivasakthi about to score Bengaluru's second.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru FC continued its climb up the ISL table with a 3-1 win over Chennaiyin FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

It was the home side's fourth win on the trot, a streak that has lifted spirits after a forgettable first half of the season.

Whether it will eventually help seal a playoff spot – BFC is currently on 22 points from 16 games – remains to be seen, for all four remaining matches are against sides that are above it. On the day, BFC wasn't really convincing, but was helped by a horrendous CFC display in the first half hour.

Roy Krishna helped the host take the lead in the 15th minute when he released N. Sivasakthi with a splendid long-ball from deep inside his own half and saw the in-form youngster calmly slot it home for his third goal of the campaign.

Then, the CFC mid-field duo of Jiteshwor Singh and Julius Duker made terrible mistakes, losing the ball under pressure close to their goal, and were duly picked off by Sivasakthi and Rohit Kumar.

CFC coach Tomas Brdaric rang in the changes during half-time, which included the substitution of captain Anirudh Thapa. The away side seemed transformed, b

ut BFC held on to leave CFC in a lowly eighth place (17 points from 15 matches).

The result: Bengaluru FC 3 (Sivasakthi 15, 23, Rohit 30) bt Chennaiyin FC 1 (Vanspaul 59).

At Kolkata: ATK Mohun Bagan 2 (Dimitri Petratos 3, 80) bt Odisha FC 0.

It's Dyf vs. Salento in the Golconda Derby Stakes

HYDERABAD: Dyf and Salento should fight out the finish of the Wolf777 Golconda Derby Stakes (Gr.I), the blue riband event of the Hyderabad Winter Season to be run here on Sunday (Jan. 29).

1 MADRAS RACE CLUB CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 12.30 p.m.: 1. Maximum Glamour (8) D.S. Deora 60, 2. Unsung Hero (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59, 3. Angelita (6) Mukesh Kumar 56.5, 4. Rising Queen (4) Ajay Kumar 54, 5. Stay Smart (7) B. Nikhil 53.5, 6. The Thunder (1) Ashad Asbar 52.5, 7. Only My Way (5) S. Saqlain 52 and Top Diamond (2) Kuldeep S 51.5.
1. MAXIMUM GLAMOUR, 2. UNSUNG HERO, 3. THE THUNDER

2 ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.00: 1. Australia (2) P.S. Chouhan 56, 2. Caraxes (6) Mukesh Kumar 56, 3. Encore (8) Akshay Kumar 56, 4. Faiz (1) S. Saqlain 56, 5. Happy Soul (9) P. Trevor 56, 6. Only The Brave (3) Santosh Raj 56, 7. Truth (7) Imran Chisty 56, 8. Oskars Glory (4) G. Naresh 54.5 and 9. The Platinum Queen (5) Md. Ismail 54.5.
1. HAPPY SOUL, 2. AUSTRALIA, 3. ENCORE

3 MADRAS RACE CLUB CUP (DIV. I) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.35: 1. Carlisle (8) S. Saqlain 60, 2. Briar Ridge (4) Santosh Raj 59.5, 3. Beauty Blaze (5) P. Trevor 58, 4. Silk (1) G. Naresh 54.5, 5. Rhythm Selection (6) Kuldeep S 53.5, 6. Avancia (3) Mohit Singh 53, 7. Bellaque (7) D.S. Deora 52 and 8. Doe A Deer (2) Imran Chisty 52.
1. BRIAR RIDGE, 2. BEAUTY BLAZE, 3. BELLAQUE

4 BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.10: 1. Alpine Girl (6) Mohit Singh 60, 2. N R I Fantasy (9) Antony Raj 59.5, 3. Quality Warrior (12) Aneel 59.5, 4. Wandring Warrior (14) P. Sai Kumar 59, 5. Desert Sultan (7) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 6. Keep Faith (1) S. Saqlain 57.5, 7. Soorya Vahan (3) Md. Ismail 57.5, 8. Clefairy (11) Santosh Raj 57, 9. Pal Cha (2) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 10. Arrowtown (4) Ashad Asbar 56, 11. China Town (10) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 12. Burgundy Black (5) D.S. Deora 55.5, 13. Siri (8) B. Nikhil 54.5 and 14. Delhi Heights (13) Surya Prakash 53.
1. ARROWTOWN, 2. N R I FANTASY, 3. KEEP FAITH

5 TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA CUP (1,600m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2.50: 1. Ballerina (7) A. Sandesh 60, 2. Premier Action (4) Mukesh Kumar 60, 3. Kesariya Balam (2) Antony Raj 56, 4. Akido (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 5. Mark My Day (1) Nakhat Singh 54, 6. General Atlantic (5) Gaurav Singh 53.5 and 7. Royal Grace (3) S. Saqlain 52.5.
1. AKIDO, 2. BALLERINA, 3. ROYAL GRACE

6 MYSORE RACE CLUB CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.25: 1. Classy Dame (4) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Ok Boss (7) Y.S. Srinath 60, 3. Royal Star (6) S. Saqlain 60, 4. Sally (13) A.A. Vikrant 60, 5. Unmatched (1) Mukesh Kumar 60, 6. Cabello (14) Kiran Naidu 58, 7. Sopranos (2) Akshay Kumar 58, 8. Blazing Jupiter (5) Imran Chisty 55, 9. Coming Home (3) D.S. Deora 54, 10. Hot Seat (11) Md. Ismail 54, 11. Sporting Smile (8) Aneel 54, 12. Fatuma (12) Gaurav Singh 53, 13. Ayur Tej (10) G. Naresh 50.5 and 14. Exclusive Luck (9) B. Nikhil 50.5.
1. SOPRANOS, 2. ROYAL STAR, 3. UNMATCHED

7 ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.00: 1. N R I Sun (8) G. Naresh 60, 2. Nightmare (3) Santosh Raj 58, 3. Miss Marvellous (1) Mukesh Kumar 57, 4. Winning Streak (7) S. Saqlain 57, 5. Juramento (10) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 6. Just Incredible (4) Imran Chisty 54, 7. Candy Girl (5) B. Nikhil 53.5, 8. Pleroma (11) Abhay Singh 53.5, 9. FLy Tothe Stars (6) Ashad Asbar 53, 10. Path Of Peace (2) P. Trevor 53, 11. Carnival Lady (12) Gaurav Singh 52 and 12. Exclusive Spark (9) D.S. Deora 51.
1. PATH OF PEACE, 2. JURAMENTO, 3. WINNING STREAK

8 WOLF777 GOLCONDA DERBY STAKES (Gr.I) (2,400m) (Terms), 4-y-o only, 4.35: 1. All Attraction (9) Neeraj Rawal 57, 2. Dyf (5) P. Trevor 57, 3. Kancha (8) Akshay Kumar 57, 4. Salento (10) Antony Raj S 57, 5. Serdar (3) A. Sandesh 57, 6. Wordsmith (2) P.S. Chouhan 57, 7. Hoping Cloud (4) Mohit Singh 55.5, 8. Mysterious Angel (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55.5, 9. Nugget (7) Y.S. Srinath 55.5 and 10. Shabelle (1) Imran Chisty 55.5.
1. DYF, 2. SALENTO, 3. MYSTERIOUS ANGEL

9 DELHI RACE CLUB CUP (1,400m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5.20: 1. Chica Bonita (8) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Das (11) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 3. First Class (10) D.S. Deora 60, 4. Precious Gift (3) Santosh Raj 60, 5. Sea Of Class (2) Imran Chisty 60, 6. Samrat (5) Mohit Singh 59.5, 7. Canterbury (4) Mukesh Kumar 59, 8. Good Tidings (6) Y.S. Srinath 59, 9. Wot's Up Jay (9) Gaurav Singh 58, 10. Call Of The Blue (7) Koushik 56.5 and 11. Red River (1) R.S. Jodha 55.
1. GOOD TIDINGS, 2. CANTERBURY, 3. DAS

Day's Best: SOPRANOS
Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 6, 7, 8 & 9. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7, 8 & 9.
Tanala: All races.

Belgium and Germany lock horns for top prize

Belgians set on keeping the title they won at the same venue four years ago; Germany coach 'saw this coming' for the 'strongest team in Europe'; Australia and Netherlands play for the bronze

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

Perfectly poised: Belgium, having come through via the shootout, will be fired up for a better performance in the summit clash. K.R. DEEPAK

Belgium hockey's golden generation has had many firsts to its name. And, on January 29, 2023, Felix Denayer and his men will look to add another to their long list of achievements – winning two world titles in as many final appearances, on the same ground they did four years ago.

One step away

The oldest side in the competition has outplayed and outrun younger opponents to be one step away from achieving that. But the Belgians will have to get past a stubborn and dangerous Germany, searching for its own third title and improving with every game, including upturning results in the last few minutes.

Having reached here the hard way, through crossovers and finding a new star in every victory, ensures the World No. 3 will be high on confidence.

Germany coach Andre Henning admitted it wouldn't be easy.

All things being equal, it might come down to the one word Henning insisted on: attitude. Germany's last-second goals in the last two games have been all about staying in the game. It would also be Belgium's biggest challenge.

Aussie-Dutch face-off

Earlier in the day, Australia will take on the Netherlands with both teams hoping to go back with a medal even if it isn't the one they would have wished for. Both finished on the podium in 2018 and having faltered in the semifinals, will be hoping to end on a high.

Sunday's matches: Third place playoff: Australia vs Netherlands (4.30 p.m.). **Final:** Germany vs Belgium (7 p.m.).

Abhishek steals the show again as India finishes joint ninth

Aashin Prasad
ROURKELA

Pulling strings: Abhishek unsettled the South Africans with his scorching runs. BISWARANJAN ROUT

As India and South Africa lined up for their national anthems, forward Mandeep Singh received a thundering ovation from the fans at the Birsa Munda International Stadium as it was his 200th game for the country. But it was another young Indian forward, Abhishek, who produced moments of brilliance to lead India to a 5-2 win over South Africa in a World Cup classification match here on Saturday.

The 23-year-old picked up from where he left off the other night, enthralling the crowd with his dribbles and electric runs. He opened India's account in the fourth minute before setting up another as the hosts finished joint-ninth with Argentina, a 6-0 winner over Wales.

It wasn't the dominant performance coach Graham Reid would have hoped for after the early strike.

Abhishek did well to trap a ball from skipper Harmanpreet Singh, spun away from his marker and fired home into the right corner after making room for a shot. Harmanpreet converted from his first drag-flick to double the lead in the opening quarter.

The South Africans slowly grew into the game, having more possession and denying India space inside the circle. Goalkeeper Gowan Jones, too, foiled the hosts' attempts to pull away further.

It needed Abhishek to create something out of nothing and he did just that. After being denied by Jones, Abhishek collected a long ball on the right and evaded his marker to set up a simple finish for Shamsher Singh.

Akashdeep Singh scored his third goal of the tournament before Sukhjeet Singh pushed home on the slide off a rebound. South Africa reduced the margin through goals from Samkelo Mvimbi and Mustaphaa Cassien before taking the 11th spot alongside Wales.

Earlier in the day, Malaysia bounced back with a 3-2 win over Japan while France beat Chile 4-2.

The results: South Africa 2 (Mvimbi 48, Cassiem 59) lost to India 5 (Abhishek 4, Harmanpreet 11, Shamsher 44, Akashdeep 48, Sukhjeet 58).
Argentina bt Wales 6-0; Malaysia bt Japan 3-2; France bt Chile 4-2.

The Aryna show: Despite losing the first set, Sabalenka refused to relent. AFP

Sabalenka downs Rybakina, wins maiden Grand Slam

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

What a ride! Sabalenka in tears after her triumph. AP

An emotional Aryna Sabalenka battled back from a set down to beat Elena Rybakina and win the Australian Open on Saturday for her first Grand Slam title.

The Belarusian collapsed in tears after winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 against the Wimbledon champion in a high-quality 2hr 28min arm-wrestle.

Emotional

The 24-year-old Sabalenka wiped a tear from her right eye before getting a warm hug from Moscow-born Rybakina, who played a full part in an amazing match between two hard-hitters.

Sabalenka, the fifth seed, then ran to her player's box to celebrate joyously with her team.

It was a fitting finale to two weeks of drama highlighted by brutal groundstrokes, precision serving and wonderful rallies from two players at the top of their game.

Rybakina cruised through the first set in just 34 minutes but Sabalenka scrapped her way back in a 57-minute second set to take it to a nervy decider.

It was then a case of which of the big servers would blink first in a toe-to-toe battle.

At 3-3 Rybakina – who represents Kazakhstan – could not find enough first serves and though she saved two break-points, a third was too much and Sabalenka had the finish line in sight.

An ace took her to 5-3 and Rybakina held to force Sabalenka to test her nerves and serve for the championship. She was up to the challenge, but needed four nerve-shredding match-points after a display where she hit 51 winners and 17 aces to edge past the big-serving Rybakina.

Climbing to No. 2

Sabalenka will now rise to second in the world, equalling her career high.

Rybakina will have the consolation of breaking into top 10 for the first time, after reaching her second Grand Slam final in seven months. She was awarded no ranking points for her Wimbledon win because of the ban on Russian and Belarusian players there.

The result:

Women: Final: 5-Sabalenka bt 22-Rybakina (Kaz) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Will Djokovic break level with Nadal or will Tsitsipas break through?

1 Apart from the Australian Open title, the World No. 1 ranking will be up for grabs when Djokovic and Tsitsipas meet in Sunday's final. The Greek is looking to become the first player to beat the Serb in the final at Melbourne Park

2 Djokovic and Tsitsipas will play each other in a Slam final for the second time. The previous occasion was the 2021 French Open final when the former came back from two sets down to win 6-7(6), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4

3 Djokovic is looking to clinch his 10th Australian Open title, an achievement that will make him only the third in history to bag a single Major 10 or more times. Rafael Nadal has won the French Open 14 times while Margaret Court won the Australian Open 11 times

4 Djokovic, at 35 years 252 days, is the fourth oldest man in the Open era to reach the Australian Open final

5 The Serbian will surpass Guillermo Vilas and become the fifth player (Open era) with the most ATP-level matches (1249); only Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer, Ivan Lendl and Rafael Nadal have played more

6 Tsitsipas is seeking to become the sixth player to beat Djokovic in a Grand Slam final. In his 32 Slam finals Djokovic has lost only 11 - Federer (1), Nadal (5), Murray (2), Wawrinka (2) and Medvedev (1)

9 In 12 matches against Tsitsipas, Djokovic has won the last nine. The Greek's previous victory against the Serb came in the quarterfinals of the 2019 Shanghai Masters when he won 3-6, 7-5, 6-3

10 Djokovic is also bidding to win his 10th Grand Slam crown since turning 30 and extend his record for most Slam men's singles titles after the age of 30 (Open era)

12 The 35-year-old is playing his 12th Grand Slam final after turning 30, an Open era record in men's tennis. Nadal is second with 10 while Federer and Rosewall (8) lie third

22 Djokovic will look to win his 22nd Slam and equal Nadal's record for most Slam men's singles titles

41 The Serb will aim to stretch his winning streak in Australia to 41 matches. The last time he lost was in the round of 16 at the 2018 Australian Open to South Korea's Hyeon Chung [6-7(4), 5-7, 6-7(3)]

93 A triumph will give Djokovic his 93rd Tour-level title and the sole ownership of the fourth spot (Open era) for most Tour crowns, ahead of Nadal. Only Connors (109), Federer (103) and Lendl (94) have won more Tour titles

Compiled by Nihit Sachdeva

Pedri earns subdued Barcelona nervy derby victory at Girona

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
GIRONA (SPAIN)

Barcelona's Pedri Gonzalez earned his side a tense 1-0 Catalan derby win at Girona on Saturday, opening a six-point gap ahead of Real Madrid at the top of LaLiga.

Pedri netted the only goal after an hour on his 100th appearance for Barca after replacing the injured Ousmane Dembele.

The forward limped off in the first half, a blow for Barcelona considering his superb recent form.

The results: LaLiga: Cadiz 2 (Bongonda 10, Alex 38-pen) bt Real Mallorca 0; Girona 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Pedri 61).
Bundesliga: Freiburg 3 (Gregoritsch 13, Hoeller 30, Lienhart 85) bt Augsburg 1 (Berisha 29-pen); Mainz 5 (Lee 1, Widmer 17, Onisiwo 28, 57, 87) bt Bochum 2 (Kunde Malong 70, Masovic 72); Hoffenheim 1 (Bebou 80) lost to Monchengladbach 4 (Hofmann 12, 37, Stindl 83, Wolf 90+1); Hertha Berlin 0 lost to Union Berlin 2 (Doekhi 44, Seguin 67); Werder Bremen 2 (Fuellkrug 24-pen, 77) bt Wolfsburg 1 (Paredes 90).

Serie A: Empoli 2 (Luperto 37, Marin 69) drew with Torino 2 (Ricci 82, Sanabria 85); Cremonese 1 (Okereke 11) lost to Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 21, 65)

Silver lining: Washington's display with the bat was the highlight for India in the opening T20I. AFP

India has to iron out flaws to stay alive

NZ IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
LUCKNOW

India will have to rectify a few flaws in order to challenge New Zealand in the second T20I on Sunday.

The Indian pacers failed to adjust to a spin-friendly track at Ranchi in the first T20I on Friday, leading to a 21-run win for the Kiwis.

The very first ball delivered by off-spinner Washington Sundar, brought into the attack in the third over, should have provided a big clue. From a good length, Washington got the ball to grip the surface and turn in sharply, catching a surprised Finn Allen on the thigh. It should have been clear that the pitch offered spongy bounce, but this tell was ignored by speedsters Hardik Pandya, Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

Instead of sticking to cutters and slower balls, the trio bowled full and wide at full tilt. The New Zealand batters were happy to sit back and swing for the fences. Arshdeep, in particular, will look to get the yorkers right, having conceded 27 runs in a wayward final over.

The all-round performance of Washington came as a silver lining. The Tamil Nadu cricketer kept a hard length with his flat trajectory, tying up the batters in knots. He excelled with the bat as well, striking a few clean hits in a 28-ball 50.

From starting his career primarily as a top-order batter, Washington has evolved into a frontline spinner who can also operate as a lower middle-order finisher.

In T20Is, the Indian batting relies heavily on Suryakumar Yadav. This was evidenced in the first outing, when the home team's chase was derailed when Suryakumar departed for 47. The likes of Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan and Rahul Tripathi – all dismissed for single-digit scores – will have to do their part and share the burden with Suryakumar.

The teams (from):

India: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Suryakumar Yadav (Vice-capt.), Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi, Prithvi Shaw and Mukesh Kumar.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (Capt.), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Dane Cleaver, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Ben Lister, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rippon, Henry Shipley, Ish Sodhi and Blair Tickner.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

INBRIEF

Advani outclasses Lee to clinch CCI snooker crown

Pankaj Advani defeated Stephen Lee of England 7-2 in the best-of-13-frame final of the Cricket Club of India (CCI)-organised ₹12.1 lakh prize-money CCI snooker classic in Mumbai on Saturday. Advani won 53-101, 73-28, 114-14, 74-30, 87-0, 67-31, 28-60, 115-0, 106-15.

French footballer gets 30-year ban for punching referee

An amateur footballer in France, described as a "fanatic", was on Friday banned from playing for 30 years for punching a referee. The 25-year-old player, who was not named by officials, was angry at being sent off while featuring for Entente Sportive Gatinaise in a local cup game on January 8. He punched the referee so hard the official was signed off work for two days. The team was also kicked out of the tournament for the next two seasons.

Manchester City knocks Arsenal out of FA Cup

Manchester City issued a statement of intent by knocking out Arsenal 1-0 in the FA Cup. Nathan Ake's 64th-minute goal settled the fourth-round match at Etihad Stadium on Friday and the result may yet reverberate through the rest of the season. Arsenal leads City by five points at the top of the English Premier League, but its seven-game unbeaten run was ended by City, which has three straight wins in all competitions. England's two best teams have a league showdown at Emirates Stadium on Feb. 15. For now, City manager Pep Guardiola has gained an edge on his former assistant, Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "I know how difficult it is to beat Arsenal. They lost one game in the Premier League, so I know how difficult it is," Guardiola said. Defender Ake was the unlikely match-winner after curling a low shot past keeper Matt Turner.

Prajnesh makes the summit clash in Kuwait

Prajnesh Gunneswaran bat second seed Benjamin Hassan of Germany 6-4, 2-6, 6-0 to reach the final of the $25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Al Zahra, Kuwait, on Saturday. In the final, Prajnesh will play Khumoyun Sultanov of Uzbekistan.

In the $15,000 ITF men's tournament in Jakarta, Sidharth Rawat made the singles final after getting a walkover from Marat Sharipov, while Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Poonacha won the doubles title.

The results: €145,000 Challenger, Orrignies Louvain, Belgium: Doubles (quarterfinals): Dustin Brown (Jam) & Yannick Hanfmann (Ger) bt Michael Geerts (Bel) & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3, 6-4.
€145,000 Challenger, Quimper, France: Doubles (semifinals): Anirudh Chandrasekar & Arjun Kadhe bt Radu Albot (Mda) & Artem Sitak (Nzl) 6-1, 6-2.
$25,000 ITF men, Al Zahra, Kuwait: Semifinals: Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Benjamin Hassan (Ger) 6-4, 2-6, 6-0.
$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia: Singles (semifinals): Sidharth Rawat w.o. Marat Sharipov.
Doubles (final): Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha bt Keisuke Saitoh & Naoki Tajima (Jpn) 6-1, 6-3.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1, MTV (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 a.m.
BWF Indonesia Masters: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.30 a.m.
South Africa vs England: 2nd ODI, Hotstar & FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
Australian Open: (Men Singles final), Sony Sports Ten 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 2 & 4.30 p.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, (Third place play-off), 4.30 p.m. & (final), 7 p.m.
Women's U-19 T20 World Cup: (final), SS Select 1 (SD & HD), Hotstar & FanCode, 5.15 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30, 7.45, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
India vs New Zealand: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

We will back each other and enjoy the experience: Shafali

The players know their roles and what to do and all of us are excited and happy to play the final, says the India captain ahead of the summit clash against England

WOMEN'S U-19 WC

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The Women's Premier League may be the main talking point in women's cricket at the moment, but on Sunday the focus will shift to Potchefstroom, the South African city where India will take on England in the final of the inaugural Women's Under-19 World Cup.

Skipper Shafali Verma, a regular in the senior India squad, sounded confident on the eve of the match. "The feeling is very good in our camp (after the training session ahead of the final)," she said.

"The players know their roles and what to do in the final. All of us are excited and happy to play the final. We will back each other and enjoy the experience."

If India wins that final, it would be an excellent, though slightly belated, birthday gift for Shafali. She turned 19 on Saturday.

The big prize: Shafali and Scrivens strike a pose with the World Cup. INSTAGRAM/ICC

After watching England beat Australia by three runs in a thrilling semifinal, Shafali said her team was ready for the England challenge.

"That semifinal was a very good game. We have seen how England batted and bowled and we have our strategy and are going to execute it."

Her opposite number, Grace Scrivens, sounded keen to maintain the excellent track record of England – male or female – in white-ball cricket. And all the talk about the WPL did catch her attention.

"The announcement of the WPL was amazing and it is a big step forward for women's cricket," she said.

"...It will be something incredibly privileged to be part of."

Match starts at 5.15 p.m. IST.

Praggnanandhaa suffers yet another reverse

CHESS

Sports Bureau

R. Praggnanandhaa's sudden drop in form continued when he suffered his third loss in four rounds after running into Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo in the only decisive game of the Masters section in the 11th round of the Tata Steel chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, near Amsterdam, on Friday.

A blunder on the 24th move pushed the youngster down and he eventually resigned in 52 moves to remain on five points.

Playing out a draw

In another encounter featuring two Indians, Arjun Erigaisi (4) and Gukesh (4.5) played out a draw in 45 moves.

The standings remained unchanged at the top with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (7.5) retaining his half-point lead over Anish Giri (7) after their clash ended in just 29 moves. Two more rounds remain.

In the challenger section, B. Adhiban (6) stayed in the tied fourth spot after drawing with USA's Abhimanyu Mishra. R. Vaishali (4.5) drew with Erwin L'Ami.

The results: (Eleventh round):
Masters: R. Praggnanandhaa (5) lost to Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 5); Arjun Erigaisi (4) drew with D. Gukesh (4.5).
Anish Giri (Ned, 7) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 7.5); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 6.5) drew with Wesley So (USA, 6.5); Levon Aronian (USA, 6) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 6).
Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4) drew with Richard Rapport (Rom, 5.5); Ding Liren (Chn, 5) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 4.5).
Challengers: B. Adhiban (6) drew with Abhimanyu Mishra (USA 4); R. Vaishali (4.5) drew with Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 5.5).
Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 8) bt Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 6); Jergus Pechac (Svk, 3) drew with Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 7.5).
Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 7) drew with Max Warmerdam (Ned, 5); Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 6) bt Velimer Ivic (Srb, 6): Luis Supi (Bra, 5.5) bt Eline Roebers (Ned, 3).

I'm exhausted, says Warner ahead of India tour

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

An intense home season has left star Australian opener David Warner "tired and exhausted" ahead of the upcoming four-Test series in India, beginning in Nagpur on February 9.

The 36-year-old played in multiple formats in a hectic summer, including ODI series against Zimbabwe, New Zealand, and England and Tests against West Indies and South Africa.

Warner also competed in the T20 World Cup at home besides playing half a dozen games for Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL).

"It's been challenging. I'm quite tired and exhausted," Warner was quoted by *Cricbuzz*. "A few guys have gone to the UAE League but aren't attending the Cricket Australia Awards. From my perspective, it would have been nice to have had another night at home. But it is what it is."

Warner said the BBL comeback was to help out his franchise. "You're not really trying to negate the spinning ball, it's a white ball as well," Warner said of the BBL. "For me, it was about coming back and trying to inject some energy into the Thunder team and trying to put my best foot forward for the team. It hasn't come off this year.

"Hopefully, next year I can come out and be fresher than I am now. It will be a long lead-in to our summer (that includes the ODI World Cup in India). From a personal point of view, I'm going to have to try and work out how to stay nice and fresh," he added.

In fine nick: Warner snapped a poor run of form with a double-century in his 100th Test. AP

FIFA bans four Uruguay players over WC incidents

Agence France-Presse
LAUSANNE

Four Uruguay players – Diego Godin, Edinson Cavani, Jose Maria Gimenez and Fernando Muslera – have been suspended and fined over incidents following the team's World Cup match against Ghana, FIFA announced on Friday.

The Uruguayan federation has also been fined $54,248 and handed a partial stadium closure for their next home match.

The players were incensed by refereeing decisions during its 2-0 win over Ghana in their final group game, and reacted angrily. A three-goal win would have seen them qualify for the last 16 but they were knocked out.

Sohil cashes in on pole for his second win of season

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Making the best use of his pole position, Sohil Shah roared to his second win of the season on Saturday in the MRF Formula 2000 category in the fourth and final round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2022 here at the Madras International Circuit.

An equally facile winner was veteran Arjun Balu (Race Concepts). It was his fourth of the season, in the Indian Touring Cars category.

Viswas Vijayraj (DTS Racing) also notched up a fluent lights-to-flag win in the Formula LGB 1300 race to move within eight points of championship leader Raghul Rangasamy (MSport), who took the second spot ahead of Kolkata's Arya Singh (Momentum Motorsports).

The results (provisional — all 8 laps unless mentioned): MRF

Triumphant drive: Sohil Shah, who won the MRF F2000 race, in action. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

F2000: Race-1: 1. Sohil Shah (12min, 31.381sec); 2. Sai Sanjay T (12:36.091); 3. Divy Nandan (12:39.156).
Indian Touring Cars: Race-1, 10 laps: 1. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) (18:53.861); 2. Arjun Narendran (Arka Motorsports) (18:57.871); 3. Sandeep Kumar (Rayo Racing) (19:13.150).
Indian Junior Touring Cars: Race-1, 10 laps: 1. Gurunath Meiyappan (Race Concepts) (19:37.194); 2. Akkineni Anand Prasad (Performance Racing) (19:38.495); 3. Deepak Ravikumar (Performance Racing) (19:44.652).
Super Stock: Race-1, 9 laps: 1. Ritesh Rai (Performance Racing) (19:00.108); 2. Narendran (Redline Racing) (19:09.762); 3. Diljith TS (DTS Racing) (19:10.429).
Formula LGB 1300: Race-1: 1. Viswas Vijayraj (DTS Racing) (15:06.216); 2. Raghul Rangasamy (MSport) (15:13.825); 3. Arya Singh (Momentum Motorsports) (15:13.984).
Volkswagen Polo Cup: Race-1: 1. Ritesh Rai (15:49.646); 2. Pratik Sonawane (15:52.970); 3. Raaj Bakhru (15: 53.869).
Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Avik Anwar (19:51.961); 2. Prashanth Tharani Singh (19:54.052); 3. Munjal Savla (19:55.725).
MRF Saloons: Toyota Etios, Race-1: 1. Justin Singh (16:29.741); 2. Diana Pundole (16:30.531); 3. Commissariat (16:36.259).

Abhay off to a comfortable victory over Guhan

SQUASH

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Top seed Abhay Singh got off to a smooth start as he beat Guhan Senthilkumar 11-7, 11-2, 11-9 in the first round of the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament at the Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on Saturday.

Having won six titles, the 70th-ranked Abhay Singh would be keen to sustain his good work in the new season and climb further in the world rank to be able to compete in higher-level events.

Vibrant start

With matches thoughtfully scheduled after 12 noon to help players overcome the chill of the Capital, the international event got off to a vibrant start.

In another match, Yusuf Elsherif of Egypt overcame a stiff resistance from Aarav Gill 11-7, 5-11, 11-4, 11-6.

The top eight seeds including World No. 1 junior Amina Orfi of Egypt got a bye in the first round, and it was smooth ride for the rest, in the women's section.

Focused: Abhay, foreground, and Guhan. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Yusuf Elsherif of Egypt overcomes a stiff resistance from Aarav Gill World No. 1 junior Amina Orfi of Egypt got a bye in the first round in the women's section

The results (first round):
Men: Abhay Singh bt Guhan Senthilkumar 11-7, 11-2, 11-9; Rahul Baitha bt Shaurya Bawa 11-2, 11-5, 11-7.
Hoony Lee (Kor) bt Rounak Yadav 11-9, 11-6, 11-5; Yousif Thani (Bah) bt Stephen Hearst (Irl) 12-10, 6-11, 11-7, 11-7; Matthew Lai (Hkg) bt Paarth Ambani 8-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-7.

Seif Ashraf (Egy) bt Kalash Talati 11-1, 11-1, 11-4; Ravi Dixit bt Ranvijay Singh Sidhu 11-7, 11-4, 11-3; Om Semwal bt Toufik Mekhalfi (Fra) 11-9, 11-7, 11-7; Sandeep Ramachandran bt Arihant KS 11-5, 11-2, 11-1; Yusuf Elsherif (Egy) bt Aarav Gill 11-7, 5-11, 11-4, 11-6; Tavneet Singh Mundra bt Jaideep Singh Sethi 12-14, 11-4, 11-7, 11-3; Tomotaka Endo (Jpn) bt Pardeep Malik 12-10, 11-9, 11-7; Ravindu Laksiri (Sri) bt Adarsh Banodha 11-4, 11-4, 11-4; Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu bt Suraj Kumar Chand 11-5, 11-5, 11-3; Mohamed Gohar bt Jaejin Yoo (Kor) 11-9, 11-8, 11-7; Yassin Elshafei (Egy) bt Aryan Pratap Singh 11-5, 11-3, 11-6.

Women: Kaashvi Mangal bt Sanika Choudhari 11-6, 11-1, 11-5; Dong Ju Song (Kor) bt Bijali Darvada 11-2, 11-1, 11-4; Janet Vidhi bt Nirupama Dubey 11-9, 11-5, 11-8; Khushi Puranik bt Mahak Talati 11-1, 11-0, 11-2; Yuvna Gupta bt Tharushi Kavindya (Sri) 11-1, 11-1, 11-2; Mingyong Heo (Kor) bt Sanvi Battar 11-4, 11-8, 11-5; Amira Elrefaey (Egy) bt Navya Sundararajan 11-5, 11-2, 11-8; Rathika Suthanthira Seelan bt Aradhya Pordiwal 11-7, 11-3, 11-8.